Hot dog haunts

Dear Franks, 5699 W. Touhy Ave., is well-known for its hot dogs. July is National Hot Dog Month. Employee Faris Fakhouti finishes a hot-dog order in the store on June 29. See Page 5.

Photo by Tamara Bell-Sun-Times Media
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Dear Franks, 5699 W. Touhy Ave., is well-known for its hot dogs. July is National Hot Dog Month. Employee Faris Fakhouti finishes a hot dog order in the store on June 29. PAGE 5 | TAMARA BELL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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VILLAGE BOARD

Trustees approve flood-relief grants for homeowners

By Tracy Gruen

Relief may be on the way for Niles residents who have been victims of flooding for several years. A resolution to authorize a grant-based, cost-sharing program for residential flood relief was approved by the Niles Village Board on June 20.

All of the trustees, with the exception of Trustee Rosemary Palicki, voted in favor of the cost-sharing program that would assist residents with the purchase of overhead sewers that can cost $8,000 to $10,000.

Under this flood-control assistance program, homeowners who qualify will receive a grant totaling 50 percent of the improvement costs with a maximum of $4,000 given per home.

The goal is to help relieve overland flooding and sewage backup. The programs will be funded through the $25 percent sales-tax increase which was approved this past January.

Trustee Joseph LoVerde, chairman of the village’s Storm Water Commission, said that residents with the worst flooding issues will receive the highest priority in terms of assistance.

Palicki felt the village’s storm water solutions should benefit the village as a whole. She said she would be in favor of establishing an income threshold to identify lower-income homeowners and that they should have the highest priority.

Palicki expressed concern that residents who could afford to purchase overhead sewers themselves may get assistance over someone who cannot afford it.

“Requiring people to bring in their tax returns and W2s is ridiculous,” responded LoVerde. He stated that residents should be chosen for assistance based on their flooding issues, not their income.

LoVerde said there is about $300,000 budgeted for the cost-sharing portion of the storm water plan and homeowners could possibly get assistance in a couple of months.

In the long term, the village is planning a first tier of capital improvement projects that could take six to 10 years to finish. There are also tier-two capital improvement projects that may take another 10 to 20 years to complete.

Tier one capital improvement projects total $4.6 million and include: ■ a Cleveland Avenue relief sewer with connections to Grennan Heights, Keeney Street and Monroe Street at a cost of $87 million.

■ A Lee Street relief sewer and storage near Milwaukee Avenue and Main Street for a cost of $4.8 million.

■ The construction of a stormwater detention basin at a cost of $3.1 million.

“The village of Niles Board of Trustees approved one of the most significant public works projects in the history of the village that will reduce reported basement backups, reduce residential property loss, improve public health, improve property values and simply improve the quality of life of all our residents,” Mayor Robert Callero said.

The Storm Water Commission was formed in October 2008 following the region’s worst flood in recorded history, explained Callero. The mission was to determine why the 2008 flood was so destructive, but also why several residents face flooding issues even during lighter rainfall.

VILLAGE HALL

Niles village workers move to unionize

By Tracy Gruen

A group of unrepresented village of Niles employees have united to form a union with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFSCME Council 81.

About 40 workers would be eligible to be a part of the union, which would include clerical positions, administrative positions and others. Supervisors and managerial positions would be excluded from the union.

“The reason they’re seeking representation is that they really feel they’re not being treated as fairly as other employees in the village,” said Tracey Abman, organizing director of AFSCME Council 81.

Abman said that in the past few years nonunion health-care costs have increased by 50 percent while union employees did not see those increases.

An open letter to village of Niles non-union employees stated: “For some time now, we have watched as our standard of living has eroded as the village trustees make decisions that directly affect us without our voice being heard.”

Abman said that by being part of the union the employees feel they will have a real voice, and secure their pay and benefits.

If a majority of the roughly 40 eligible employees are interested they will move forward and file a petition with the labor board, Abman explained.

“If you look at what’s going on lately in the village, the mayor has representation and now the trustees have representation. They’re seeking that kind of level of protection,” Abman said.

A group of village trustees recently bought for an outside attorney to look into various issues that concerned them, including past bonuses given to former village managers and other employees and the fact there were no minutes to reflect village-board approval of those bonuses.

Abman said the employees are not asking for anything outrageous. “They want to secure the things they enjoy in their jobs right now,” she said.

LIBRARY BOARD

Trustees make rapid reversal on online recordings

By Tracy Gruen

Just a week after approving a bylaw change requiring audio recordings of meetings to be posted online, Niles Public Library Board trustees reversed their own ruling.

Following an April 25 session at which the public portion of the meeting for the first time was not recorded as per past practice, library trustees voted in favor of improving transparency by posting recordings of all public board meetings on the library website.

Among reasons cited for last week’s reversal were questions about legal requirements regarding records maintenance once the audio recordings were made.

“What changed in just a week?” Trustee Morgan Dubiel asked in a news release. “If the public could hear the meeting, they wouldn’t believe we were reverting our decision so quickly, and now they can’t even ever hear it if they wanted to.”

Dubiel was the only trustee who voted against the reversal on the 5-1 vote to revoke the recording requirement. Dubiel had been the trustee pushing for the recordings to be available online.

“I’m a member of the Niles Historical Society,” he said. “They work to preserve our history. I never thought in my life that a library wouldn’t find a need to preserve such information. I think it’s a mistake to abuse this.”

It’s the opposite of what a library is all about. I hope this foolish reversal is itself reversed again.”

Karen Dimond, a library trustee who recently joined the board, said she had had “mixed feelings” about the recording requirement.

“I certainly see it might be of interest to some people to listen to the recordings online,” she said.

Still, referring to members of the public who speak at meetings, Dimond added: “Some of the things they are talking about are of a nature that they might not want to be recorded.”

Dimond said another concern is how their recordings would fall under the Local Records Act and how much would be involved related to storage and maintaining the records.

Dimond said she isn’t sure how many people would be interested in listening to the audio recordings online.

Dubiel indicated he is not finished pursuing the recording issue.

“I’ll bring this up next meeting and the next meeting until we get it right,” he stated.
IN PROFILE

Top grad talks volunteering, academics ... pop music

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Austin Bryniarski completed his studies at Maine South High School in the top 1 percent of his class; is a member of the National Honor Society; led the school's Speech Team, student newspaper and foreign language magazine; competed on the state championship Chess Team; and was nominated for the Union League Club of Chicago's Democracy in Action Award.

In full he's headed to Yale University where he will study environmental studies and political science.

Which school activity was most meaningful?

Our school newspaper, Southwinds, is unique in that it brings a bunch of different people together to work towards a common goal — something I really appreciate. It's interdisciplinary, too, since it's a combination of English and design. As managing editor, I can satisfy a lot of my different interests.

You volunteer at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. What work do you do?

I work in the Surgery Lounge picking up the phone, paging the families of patients in surgery and communicating with other parts of the hospital to make sure family members are where they need to be. It's like working at Olive Garden, but more fulfilling.

Talk about the U.S. Senate campaign you worked on.

I worked for Alexi Giannoulis' campaign going into sophomore year. I participated in phone-banking (calling up voters), canvassing, attending events (like Taste of Greece) and looking up data. My interest in political campaigns was piqued when I phone-banked and canvassed my freshman year with President Obama's campaign, and my summer going into junior year was spent working for what was essentially a floating campaign for various Illinois General Assembly members. I love reaching out to voters, and — it sounds a little romantic — seeing the democratic process in action.

Favorite school subject?

There are so many options, but I'll go with psychology. I love science and I love history, so it was the perfect blend of the two subjects. Not only did I get to learn about the evolution of personality theories and different ideas of how we develop psychologically, but the biological mechanisms that make them happen. I want to major in environmental studies because it has that same, two-fold approach of policy and history, but also sciences.

Most challenging class?

English or calculus? Calculus!

Is there hope for the Cubs this year?

I'm a Cubs fan, so you can't keep a good team down. There's always hope. Is there ever?

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Hot dog haunts

Local hot-dog hawkers speak frankly about why they're No. 1 in a bun

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

Though they serve different types of one of America's favorite fast-food items, they all have one thing in common: They all believe their hot dogs are the Top Dog.

In honor of National Hot Dog Month, which is July, local restaurant owners shared their secrets about what makes their hot dogs No. 1.

For nearly eight years, Dear Franks has been serving Chicago-style Vienna Beef hot dogs with mustard, relish, onions, tomatoes, pickles, hot peppers and a dash of celery salt to customers at its location in Niles.

"We always give everything we make an extra dose of pride and love," said co-owner Randy Kash, who grew up in the area.

Kash said the family business, at 5699 W. Touhy Ave., Niles, makes high-quality hot dogs and uses all fresh ingredients. Dear Franks also has locations in Deerfield and Glenview.

"You'll get a hot dog that's perfectly cooked every time," said Kash, noting that on average Dear Franks sells about 200 hot dogs a day.

Kash believes Chicago-style is the best way to have a hot dog, and though plain-with-ketchup might come in second place, it is "not the Chicago way." He believes that you can teach an employee how to make the perfect hot dog, but you can't teach them to be friendly, so that is an essential quality he looks for in a potential employee.

While sitting at a table waiting for his order, Mike Hernandez said he is a big fan of the hot dogs at Dear Franks. Hernandez said he grew up in the area and when he drove by he just had to stop in.

"They're great," he said, adding that he enjoys all of the fresh ingredients that go on top of his hot dog. "It's like a salad on a hot dog."

For Don Drucker, owner of Superdawg, at Milwaukee and Devon avenues, the fact that it's July doesn't change how the dogs are prepared.

"As far as I'm concerned every month is Hot Dog Month," said Drucker, noting that the Northwest Side Chicago eatery, which also has a Wheeling location, has been a hot spot to get hot dogs for decades.

Drucker said his hot dogs are truly unique because they are made with a special recipe. "You can't get them anywhere else," Drucker said.

"They're bigger than most dogs in the city," said Drucker.

Superdawg is known for serving hot dogs Chicago-style with mustard, relish, onion, pickle, green pickled tomatoes and hot peppers. The hot dogs come with crinkle-cut fries in a special box.

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Another unique item about Superdawg is that customers can park at an old-fashioned drive-in and a car hop will bring out their food after they place their order through an electronic speaker system.

"Your car is our dining room," Drucker said.

Drucker also pointed out that everything at Superdawg is cooked to order.

"There's nothing that's pre-made," he said. "It's not started until you order it. It tastes that much fresher and of higher quality."

Summer is the most popular time for Superdawg, especially because of the drive-in scene, but he said people in the Chicago area love eating hot dogs all year round.

Another old area favorite, Booby's, at 8161 N. Milwaukee Ave., has been serving Vienna hot dogs to customers for about a half-century.

"I think they have a better taste than Vienna," said Spavropoulos, adding that customers typically order a hot dog with fries and a drink combo.

Charhouse Grill has been at 6004 Oakton St. in Morton Grove for a little more than a year and also specializes in gyros sandwiches.
**A CLOSER LOOK**

**Toastmasters helps improve public speaking, confidence**

*BY NICK KATZ*

Unlike many people who join Toastmasters International, Sang-Jin Lee didn't really join the Niles Township club because he wanted to advance in his career. Instead the retired pharmacist wanted to improve his communications skills in ways he thought would improve his life.

"I have more confidence in life. It's given me a higher level of self-confidence," Lee said.

The Morton Grove resident now serves as president of the Niles Township Toastmasters Club, which meets at the Morton Grove Public Library.

**Toastmasters International** is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Founded in 1924 the organization currently has more than 270,000 members in 13,000 clubs in 116 countries.

According to the organization's website the group helps a "quarter-million people of every ethnicity, education and profession build their competence in communication so they can gain the confidence to lead others."

That ethnic mix is evident in the Niles Township Club, which reflects the diversity of communities such as Morton Grove and Skokie.

"Morton Grove is a very diverse community with people from many different backgrounds," said Daniel Fang, who joined the club in November. "The club is like that, too."

"It's like a small United Nations," Lee said.

At the club's bimonthly meetings members take turns handling different activities such as providing a word of the day. One member also serves as Jokemaster, standing up front and presenting a few jokes to the group. A part of the meeting called Table Topics has members give brief, impromptu dissertations on topics provided by another member. The idea is to learn to think on your feet.

"Being a toastmaster helps me in fostering my ideas on health and longevity," Lee said.

On another level, though, the Korean-American said his membership in Toastmasters has made him more outgoing.

"Now when I share an elevator with somebody, I start talking to them. It goes beyond the pleasantries," he said.

Lee said the club has about two-dozen members. But more than 100 people showed up earlier this month when the club hosted a special presentation by 2001 Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking Darren LaCroix. His presenta-
Andrew Segal gives the word of the day during the Niles Township Toastmasters Club on June 13. | DAN LUEBERT-SUN TIMES MEDIA

**PUBLIC-SPEAKING TIPS**

Feeling nervous before giving a speech is natural and even beneficial, but being too nervous can be detrimental. Here are some proven tips on how to control your butterflies and give better presentations:

- Know your material. Choose a topic you are interested in. Know more about it than you include in your speech. Use humor, personal stories and conversational language — that way you won’t easily forget what to say.
- Practice. Practice. Practice! Rehearse out loud with all equipment you plan on using. Revise as necessary. Work to control filler words; practice, pause and breathe. Practice with a timer and allow time for the unexpected.
- Know the audience. Greet some of the audience members as they arrive. It’s easier to speak to a group of friends than to strangers.
- Know the room. Arrive early, walk around the speaking area, and practice using the microphone and any visual aids.
- Relax. Begin by addressing the audience. It buys you time and calms your nerves. Pause, smile and count to three before saying anything. (“One, one-thousand; two, one-thousand; three, one-thousand. Pause. Begin.) Transform nervous energy into enthusiasm.
- Visualize yourself giving your speech. Imagine yourself speaking, your voice loud, clear and confident. Visualize the audience clapping — it will boost your confidence.
- Realize that people want you to succeed. Audiences want you to be interesting, stimulating, informative and entertaining. They’re rooting for you.
- Don’t apologize for any nervousness or problem — the audience probably never noticed it.
- Concentrate on the message — not the medium. Focus your attention away from your own anxieties, and concentrate on your message and your audience.
- Gain experience. Mainly, your speech should represent you, as an authority and as a person. Experience builds confidence, which is the key to effective speaking. A Toastmasters club can provide the experience you need in a safe and friendly environment.

The Niles Township Toastmasters Club meets at 7:35 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

At-home summer recreation starts at Mil-Green

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

With grilling and relaxing outdoors at its peak, so is business at Mil-Green in Niles.

From March until October the store, located at 9650 N. Milwaukee Ave., sells outdoor patio furniture, patio umbrellas, cushions, covers and accessories, gas grills and grill parts, hammocks, swings, pool filters and chemicals and more.

But once the weather turns chilly, the store is emptied out and transformed into a winter wonderland. About 150 artificial, pre-lit Christmas trees are available for purchase, as are Christmas lights and decorations, gas logs for the fireplace and other winter products.

Owner Steve Arden shared that his grandfather and great-uncle started the family business in the mid-1960s and Mil-Green is the last remaining of the 11 stores that were once part of the business.

Mil-Green on Milwaukee Avenue has provided outdoor furniture to the Niles community and surrounding areas for about 20 years. Most customers come from Niles, Park Ridge, Glenview and Northbrook, Arden said, and some say their parents purchased their furniture from Mil-Green and now they are interested in buying furniture for their own homes.

Since 2000, Arden, a certified public accountant, has been the owner of Mil-Green. When he was in high school he worked at his grandfather's store, which was similar to Mil-Green. A true family business, Steve's older brother has joined him at Mil-Green.

Arden said his products are high-quality, but with low price-tags.

"There aren't a lot of stores like ours around," said Arden.

One of the most popular trends right now is to put sofas and loveseats outside.

Arden said an increasing number of customers want to purchase sofas for their patios.

Mil-Green features over 80 furniture sets in its showroom. The store also offers custom orders where customers can choose from hundreds of designs, fabrics and finishes to create their ideal outdoor living area.

Arden said he sells a lot of parts for backyard grills, such as burners, often saving money for customers who might have otherwise purchased new grills. He added that Mil-Green provides a larger selection of grill parts than other, bigger stores.

The store's location at Milwaukee and Greenwood Avenues has also proven to be a prime location for drawing business.

"It's a very busy intersection," Arden said.

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Plan Commission endorses Islamic community center proposal

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The Maine Township Plan Commission last week voted to back a proposed community center operated by an Islamic food council.

The commission on June 25 voted 3-1 in support of the special-use permit requested by the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America to operate the Sabeel Center in a former synagogue, at 8800 W. Ballard Road, in unincorporated Maine Township.

"I think it's going to be a benefit for the neighborhood," said Interim Chairman Peter Stachiw.

Commissioner Mary Childers cast the only vote recommending that the Maine Township Board protest the special use if it goes before the Cook County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Childers questioned claims by IFANCA representatives that the center would not conduct a number of activities drawing large crowds.

"If an investment, like $1.8 million for the property and $1.5 million in renovations, such an investment, Childers theorized, would warrant more participation.

"It just doesn't make any business sense, in my mind," she said.

The Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals is currently considering the special-use request and will make a recommendation to the County Board.

The Maine Township Plan Commission had initially met June 19 to consider the matter, but the meeting was rescheduled to June 25 after commissioners learned that township officials had not notified Sabeel Center representatives of the meeting.

About 25 citizens attended this week's meeting at Maine Township Town Hall in Park Ridge and three addressed the project, which calls for exterior and interior renovations to the existing building. Potential crowds, congestion and noise were concerns of neighbors Mevlo Hoxha and Roberta Schaffer. A resident appeared to object to the facility's association with Islam.

"America is a Christian and Jewish country," said Natan Koyfman, of Parkside Drive, who also made reference to the close proximity between a mosque on Potter Road in Des Plaines and the community center, referring to the Sabeel Center as IFANCA's "church."

"It is not a religious institution; it's a community center," project architect John Kelly replied.

IFANCA is a nonprofit organization that certifies food as halal, or conforming with Islamic dietary laws. The organization also acts as a consultant to many food-and-beverage companies and governments around the world.

The Sabeel Center, according to IFANCA representatives, will provide gathering space, adult and youth classes, cooking demonstrations of halal preparation, halal nutritional education and a library.

IFANCA President Muhammad Chaudry said most meetings and events at the center will not run past 9 p.m. or generate large gatherings. He identified four annual events that will draw bigger crowds — two Islamic holidays, as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations — but said they will not number more than 150 people. Events will be conducted inside the building.

In other action the Plan Commission, with the exception of Childers, supported a special-use permit for a horoscope-and-astrology business inside a home at 2834 W. Golf Road, in unincorporated Glenview, adjacent to Liquor Barn. The commission did, though, vote that the Township Board object to a petitioner's request for a sign on the residential property.
Merit pay outweighs raises for District 207 administrators

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor

Top staff at Maine Township High School District 207 entered the new school year on July 1 with slight salary increases. The district’s largest financial perk as of late, though, came in the form of appraisal merit pay, with Superintendent Ken Wallace’s $25,000 bonus leading the way.

The Board of Education this month approved a 2-percent wage increase for Wallace, bumping his 2012-13 salary to $200,990 from $196,950.

For the second year in a row he received a $25,000 performance award, resulting in $221,950 in total earnings for the previous school year, a figure that does not include a $25,043 pension contribution.

A majority of the district’s 61 other administrators, including its three assistant superintendents, are receiving a 1.5-percent raise on top of their base-pay salaries, raising the average salaries for principals and assistant principals of Maine East, Maine South and Maine West high schools in the upcoming year are about $140,380 and $126,765, respectively.

The schools’ 28 department chairs would earn, on average, about $108,860.

Next year’s pay for nine deans averages $106,880.

The real award for administrators is performance pay, which is given annually in June to those who rack up points for meeting annual goals and leadership expectations.

Administrators earned an average of 48 merit points in 2011-12, Beery said, which translates into an additional $1,405,000.

Merit pay for the assistant superintendents was more, as each received more than $18,400.

According to financial documents of the district, administrators may obtain as many as 68 merit points a year. At $290 per point that amounted to a maximum of $19,720 for the past year.

Beery said the rate per merit point jumps by $15 next year to $305.

Wallace’s performance pay, though, is not bound by the maximum allowance as outlined in his contract.

“It’s a separate consideration,” Beery said.

The inclusion of merit pay in employment agreements is common among area school districts, said Board President Sean Sullivan. Sullivan said he views it more as a “hold-back” payment than a bonus.

The district, he said, aims to a maximum of 2.4 percent.

Given the circumstances at the time Wallace had turned down a $25,000 bonus offered by the board at end of the 2009-10 school year.

“It was a different time three years ago,” Sullivan said. “This negotiated agreement was about coming together as a team.

“We came in with the intent to provide for student success.”

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Park Ridge native Nick Cosgrove, who portrays Frankie Valli in a touring production of “Jersey Boys,” poses with the real-life Valli after a concert June 2 at the Chicago Theatre. | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAINE SOUTH ALUM UPDATE

'Jersey Boys' star at career peak faces Valli

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Park Ridge native Nick Cosgrove spends each week embodying Frankie Valli in a touring production of “Jersey Boys.”

Last month the Maine South High School grad finally got an opportunity to meet the music legend in person.

Cosgrove, who appeared in “Jersey Boys” during a two-month run at the Bank of America Theatre in downtown Chicago, was introduced to Valli following a June 2 concert at the Chicago Theater.

“I was a little nervous to meet him because to be portraying someone who is still alive and still out there performing, there’s a huge weight lying on you,” Cosgrove said. “You want to do this music justice, you want to tell his story and give his story justice.”

Cosgrove, 24, brought his parents, Richard and Francine Cosgrove, of Park Ridge, backstage to meet Valli, as well.

Cosgrove said Valli gave him “a couple pointers on how to take care of my voice,” and advised the actor’s mother never to let her son get married. It’s a remark that makes Cosgrove laugh as he recounts it, but he also chuckles as he retells his mother’s own appeal to Valli.

“She whispered in his ear, ‘I have meatballs in my freezer. You can come over for dinner whenever you like,’” Cosgrove recounted. “He was laughing.

Cosgrove was most impressed with Valli’s voice, which he says hasn’t changed since he started recording with The Four Seasons in the early-1960s.

“He still sounds like he’s in his mid-20s,” Cosgrove noted.

The actor also learned from one of Valli’s music partners that he works in a recording studio every day.

“It’s amazing to see someone who loves their craft and still has that kind of commitment to what they love to do at (age 78),” Cosgrove noted. “It’s inspiring, really inspiring.”

Last week Cosgrove arrived in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where he was set to star as Frankie Valli in six performances of “Jersey Boys” June 28 through July 16 as part of a year-long tour of the United States and Canada.

SCHOOLS DIGEST

DISTRICT 64

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 is one of only 79 Illinois school districts to earn the 2012 Bright Red Apple Award for educational excellence from SchoolSearch, an independent research and consulting firm.

It’s the 18th year District 64 was selected for “providing students with an outstanding educational environment,” the award notes.

Using objective data from the 2011 Illinois State Report Cards, only 9 percent of the state’s 668 districts received the accolade.

“We are very fortunate that District 64 schools enjoy tremendous support from our community that allows us to perform at high achievement levels over such a sustained period of time,” Superintendent Philip Bender noted. “This tradition of great schools defines Park Ridge-Niles as a family-friendly community that continues to draw new generations of students here.”

The award is based on five “family-favored factors”: academic performance; pupil/teacher ratio; operating expenditure per pupil; educational level of teachers; and average teacher salary.

“District 64 is strong in all five categories,” according to SchoolSearch.

RESURRECTION

Resurrection College Prep High School Latin students recently joined more than 148,000 students from all 50 states and 13 countries when taking the 2012 National Latin Exam.

The exam, sponsored by the American Classical League and the National Junior Classical League, is designed to evaluate the student’s long-term acquisition of Latin grammar, mythology, life, history, roots/derivatives and Latin-reading comprehension.

Two local students received the prestigious Purple Ribbon for Outstanding Achievement: Cecylia Rudel, of the local Chicago area, and Hailee Higgins, of Harwood Heights.

Six students were recognized with the next-highest award, the Special Achievement Certificate: The local students are Sofia Lyskanowski, of Niles, and Sarah Nolan, Elizabeth Maloney, Elaine Wasylko and Emily Vassiladis, all of the local Chicago area.

On May 5, Resurrection College Prep High School Bandit Theatre Club held its second annual Bandit Theatre Club Banquet at Dino’s Restaurant, attended by students, parents and guests.

The Bandit Theatre Club, which includes 50 student members, presented two productions during the 2011-12 school year, “The Miracle Worker” by William Gibson and “Fools” by Neil Simon.

The Bandit Theatre Club presented several Technical/Performance awards to members and also presented Bandit Theatre Club Member of the Year Awards to Hannah Zver, of Park Ridge, and Taylor Kohout, of the Northwest Side of Chicago.

At the banquet new leaders for the 2012-13 school year were inducted, including: Hannah Zver, of Park Ridge, president; Maddie Abbatacola and Hannah Keller, makeup/hair/costumes; Abigail O’Donnell and Natalie Chin, secretaries; Daniela Malenock and Katie Nicolay, public relations; Olivia Anton, tech; and Lila Haddad, Mary Pat Hastings and Jessica Connolly, crew chiefs.

SCHOLARSHIP

Anthony S. Groenewold, of Park Ridge, a student at Maine South High School, is the recipient of a college-sponsored National Merit Scholarship from the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign. He will pursue studies in mechanical engineering.

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE

Parents who would like to register their children for the 2012-13 school year are urged to contact the school office as soon as possible. Openings still remain in pre-K-3, part-time pre-K-4, kindergarten and other grades.

The full-time pre-K-4 program (five full days per week) is now full, though the school can take names for a waiting list.

More information can be found at srb-chicago.org or by calling the office, (773) 725-5133.

The fifth-grade Girl Scouts participated in the 5K Move for the Kids to benefit the new Children’s Memorial Hospital.

On May 12, they walked the 3.1 miles from Children’s Memorial Hospital to its new downtown facility, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago.

Donations to support the team’s efforts can still be made online. A link can be found on the “News” page of the school website, srb-chicago.org, or by going to www.heroesoffore.com and searching for the team name, Girl Scout Troop 2091.
School board recognizes ‘Parents of the Year’

Four people were recently recognized as recipients of Maine Township High School District 207’s second annual “Parent of the Year” honors.

The Board of Education instituted this program a year ago to honor parents of graduating seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to education and the well-being of the students. Seniors at each of the district’s schools were invited to submit nominations in the form of essays explaining why their parent or guardian should be considered.

This year’s honorees were Maine East High parents Stanislaw and Dorota Bieniarz; Maine South mother Patricia Varco-White; and Maine West mother Julie Stepanovich.

In her nomination Jessica Bieniarz wrote of the sacrifices that her parents, Stanislaw and Dorota, made in order to immerse her in music, swimming, ballet, dance culture and religion as she grew up in Poland. Because they did not own a car, Jessica wrote, her parents would accompany her on the bus and wait until her many practices were over.

The family moved to Des Plaines four years ago as Jessica entered East High School. In order to bring Jessica here for her high-school education, her father gave up his teaching job in Poland and has worked in floor maintenance and cleaning service to support his family. Now, as Jessica pursues her higher education at the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio, her parents will return to Poland.

In her nomination Sara Stepanovich detailed how her mother, Julie, attended all of her Maine West tennis and soccer matches — even those played in miserable weather — and all of her basketball games. She also wrote of how her mother volunteered to drive to Iowa last summer for a soccer tournament that would not have happened if her mother hadn’t offered to serve as a female supervisor.

Sara said her mother as also supported her academics, sometimes with a gentle push, like the time she urged Sara to dig a little deeper and stick with a tough Advanced Placement course.

“Parent of the Year” awards were over.

Four Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 students were recipients of the 2012 Judith L. Snow Ethical Leadership Award. The eighth-graders received their awards during the June 11 Board of Education meeting.

In addition to Nasshan, Washington’s assistant principal, Dan Ophus, has left the school to become principal of Fairview Elementary School in Mount Prospect School District 57. The screening and interview process for Ophus’ replacement is under way and a candidate is expected to be named.

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“At age 3 every little girl wants to be just like their mother,” Sara wrote. “At age 13 every girl thinks they’re ‘too cool’ for their mother. At age 16 every girl wants to get away from their mother. At age 18, I’m not like every girl. I truly understand the gift that was given to me, my mother, Julie Stepanovich.”

Retired Field School principal to take helm at Washington

A retired Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 principal will return to the district for the 2012-13 school year.

Kathy Creely, principal of Field School for 11 years until her 2011 retirement, has been appointed to lead Washington School in Park Ridge as an interim principal following the departure of Kim Nasshan. The district announced June 27 that Nasshan is leaving the school to take the position of assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Lincolnwood School District 74.

“We are very proud of Ms. Nasshan’s accomplishments here in District 64 over the past eight years as Washington’s principal and are pleased that she will have the opportunity to move up into a district-level leadership role as the next step in her career,” said District 64 Superintendent Philip Bender in a statement released by the district.

Creely will serve as interim principal on a part-time basis. The process for selecting a permanent principal will begin in early-2013, Bender said.

“This schedule will allow plenty of time for input and participation by parents, staff, administrators and Board of Education members as we traditionally do in District 64,” Bender said.

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were listed in the weekly bulletin prepared by the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

BATTERY

A 62-year-old Chicago man was using a bathroom June 27 at Golf Mill Shopping Center. A 68-year-old Chicago man reportedly squeezed the victim's buttocks. The suspect denied the incident.

DECEPTIVE PRACTICE

A 31-year-old Niles man reported June 25 that he received a counterfeit check for $6,000. Starting at $4,500, $7,000, and $10,000, the suspect in his 30s selected a $6,000, 14-karat-gold necklace and asked the victim to send the furniture he was attempting to sell on Craigslist.com from his home on the 7800 block of Oconto. The victim stated that the furniture was advertised for $1,000. The suspect, an identified man, allegedly contacted the victim and said he would send a check for the furniture for $2,150. The suspect told the victim he would have to send the balance of the money to a person in Georgia. Police said the victim's bank seized the check as counterfeit.

An employee of a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center said June 17 that a man in his 30s selected a $6,000, 14-karat-gold necklace and asked about getting credit for purchase. The man filled out a credit application and provided an Illinois drivers license. The complainant learned that the ID was fake, and the suspect grabbed the ID and fled from the store.

DOMESTIC DISPUTE

A 22-year-old Niles woman told police her 20-year-old ex-boyfriend on June 26 came to her mother's home on the 7900 block of Odell and argued with the victim. The victim told police the suspect grabbed her arms and tried to pull her out of the home. The victim's 27-year-old brother separated the pair and the suspect reportedly threatened to "kill" the family.

On June 18 the victim, a 28-year-old Niles man, said he and his 26-year-old wife were going through a divorce, and when he arrived home on the 8300 block of Oconto he saw that his wife's vehicle was not in the driveway and he was concerned about his children. The victim found his two children unattended, police said.

VANDALISM

A Niles Public Works employee reported that sometime between June 26 and June 27 a suspect put graffiti on the east wall of the building on the 8300 block of Oconto. The complaint learned that the ID was fake, and the suspect grabbed the ID and fled from the store.

IDENTITY THEFT

A doctor from an office in Hoffman Estates told police that between June 1 and June 26, two unknown suspects called in more than 100 fake prescriptions for Vicadin and Norco, and other medications. The victim said the prescription was filled at a grocery-store pharmacy on the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

The owner of a beauty school on the 8000 block of Milwaukee Avenue said that between June 19 and June 26, someone put footprints in a new concrete sidewalk poured in front of the building, and spray painted the sidewalk.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

A 21-year-old Niles man said he was victim of a residential burglary June 23 at his apartment on the 8000 block of Foster Lane. Police said the suspect took jewelry from the home. An investigation was pending.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

On June 18 the victim, a 28-year-old Niles man, said he was victim of a residential burglary June 23 at his apartment on the 8000 block of Foster Lane. Police said the suspect took jewelry from the home. An investigation was pending.

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Tips offered to help prevent heat stress

The village of Niles would like to remind residents to be on the alert for signs of the different stages of heat stress that may be caused by dangerously high temperatures, a press release on the village website stated.

Proper precautions should be taken to avoid the potential for heat-related illnesses, including:
- Staying indoors in air conditioning as much as possible and in the shade if you go outside.
- Wearing sunscreen if you cannot find shade, along with loose-fitting, lightweight and bright-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
- If your home is not air conditioned, spending at least two hours daily at an air-conditioned restaurant, stores or other public place.
- Staying hydrated by drinking water regularly even if you are not thirsty.
- Avoiding exertion during the hottest parts of the day.
- Taking a cool shower if you get too hot.

Anyone overcome by the heat should be moved to a cool and shaded location, the release stated. Heat stroke is an emergency, call 911.

"Children and pets should never be left unattended in a vehicle under any circumstances," the release stated. "This is especially true during hot weather when the car interior can reach lethal temperatures in a matter of minutes!"

"All residents are encouraged to check on their neighbors during periods of extremely hot and humid weather."
SHERIFF'S REPORTS

The following incidents in unincorporated Maine Township were compiled by the Cook County Sheriff's Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

BURGLARY
A resident of the 9700 block of Dee Road told police she discovered her purse missing from her residence on the afternoon of June 10 after she took a shower. The purse contained a $600 signed check, credit cards, and identification. Police said the apartment's screen door was closed but not locked at the time of the burglary.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
Lattrell McKenzie, 20, of the 9000 block of Linda Lane, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with disorderly conduct June 7. According to police a taxi driver accused McKenzie of yelling obscenities at him and making a threat as he drove McKenzie to the 9200 block of Golf Road.

BATTERY
Erdenjarga Ganburget, 18, of the 10000 block of Linda Lane, unincorporated Maine Township was charged with simple battery June 7 after he was accused of pushing a juvenile boy to the ground near his residence at Crestwood Dominiums and Apartments. According to police Ganburget ran from responding officers and had to be ordered several times to exit his apartment.

ASSISTANCE
Police responded on the evening of June 8 to Ballard Nursing Center, 9300 Ballard Road, after a patient called 911 and hung up while trying to find a nurse to give him his medication. The police officer who responded attempted to find a nurse to assist the man, but no staff members were on the floor, police said. The officer was eventually able to locate a nurse to give the patient his medication, but the floor nurse could not be found, according to police.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
Vehicles were reported damaged June 8 on the 9400 block of Fiji Road and June 11 on the 8800 block of Robin Drive.

A criminal damage to property report was filed June 12 at the Landings on the 9300 block of Landings Lane.

THEFT
A vehicle was reported stolen June 12 from the 8900 block of Robin Drive. The following day another vehicle was reported stolen from the 9200 block of West Emerson Street.

A resident of the 9000 block of Kennedy Drive told police June 13 that he discovered 12 gold bracelets valued at about $6,000 missing from his residence. There were no signs of forced entry, police said.

OBSTRUCTION
Juan Moran-Gutierrez, 38, of the 10000 block of Michael Todd, Glenview, was charged with obstruction the evening of June 6. According to police Moran-Gutierrez refused to provide police with information or identification during a traffic stop in which the driver and front-seat passenger fled the vehicle. Moran-Gutierrez then allegedly attempted to walk away from the officer and was subsequently arrested.

HIT-AND-RUN
Hit-and-run accidents were reported June 6 on the 9000 block of North Delphia Street; June 6 on the 9200 block of West Golf Road; and June 9 on the 9100 block of Lincoln Drive.

CRASH BRIEF
Snoozing motorist causes 3-car crash, police say
A Park Ridge woman who reportedly fell asleep behind the wheel of her car caused a three-car accident near the intersection of Mayfield Drive and Good Avenue, Park Ridge Police said.

The 61-year-old driver just before 7 a.m. June 10 was westbound on Mayfield Drive approaching Good when she reportedly fell asleep and struck a 2001 Honda Civic parked on the 2700 block of Mayfield. Police said the woman reported that the impact from the crash woke her up, but she steered her 2004 Toyota Sienna off the road, up a residential lawn and into a driveway, striking a 2012 Cadillac parked there.

The driver was transported to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. The accident report did not indicate if any tickets were issued.
PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Information is provided by Record Information Services, P.O. Box 894, Elburn IL 60119; phone (630) 557-1000; fax (630) 557-1001.

PUL桐R KAK to Gregory Piasny
1841 Illinois St.: James to Marcia W Urban, $117,000, D Grochocinski, $191,000, Trust to Karen Stocco Robin
$87,500, June 4
1647 Howard Ave: Susan Gangerel Luvsanchultem to 1477 E Thacker St. Apt 504: phone (630) 557-1000; lax Kwon, $117,500, June 5

MAY 30

1111 HolIday Lane: Deutsche Record Information Services, PROPERTY TRANSFERS

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15 yr fixed
2.875 0.000
5/1 ARm
2.750 0.000

30 yr fixed
3.500 0.000
15 yr fixed
2.900 0.000
7/1 ARM
2.750 0.000

Allstar Home Mortgage, Inc
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http://www.allstarhomemortgage.com
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3.500 0.000
15 yr fixed
2.750 0.000
5/1 ARm
2.875 0.000
5/1 jumbo ARm
2.875 0.000

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MORTON GROVE
5500 Lincoln Ave. Unit 405: Fannie Mae to Michael Janson, $40,000, May 31
5500 Lincoln Ave: Halina Moskwa to Andrei Cedri Cristiina Fedor, $60,000, June 5
2706 Lake St.: Young Chang to Nancy Bell, $153,000, June 4
2215 Pinehurst Drive: Parkway Bank & Trust Co Ttee to Robert Jason McLeod Melody McLeod, $175,000, June 4
2550 Bel Air Drive: Kang Hu to Anne Schaefer, $280,000, June 4
2950 Gurnee Road: Townsend & Drawdy Trustee to Robert E. Billson, $258,000, June 6

GLENVIEW
1220 Manzella Street: Vincenzo P Manzelto to Marin Mirzishvili, $87,000, June 4
1401 Elizabeth Lane: North Star Trust Co Ttee to Daniel S Hare Anita Kay Hare, $610,000, June 4
1520 Glenview Road: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Todd R Plentzer Angela M Ulum, $225,000, June 1
1713 Dewes St. Unit 1217: Robert M Haugen to Sathish C Raja, $225,000, June 1

703 York Road: Linda L Adler to Bill Horacek, $1361, June 4
4172 Cove Lane Apt A: Scott Ewing to Virginia C Brinkman, $113,000, June 1

NILES
6600 W Roodi Drive Apt 203 Unit B: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Nicholas Cresco, $70,000, June 1
698 W Touhy Ave. Unit 409: Fischup Trust to Vazgen Fazilmanli Solomon, $113,500, May 31
7114 W Kenney St.: Donald W Eulert to Bernadette L Gandezo Romualdo G Gandezo, $170,000, May 31
120 N Milwaukee Ave. Apartment 203: Kwaiski Trust to Richard Roma Shirley A. Stedman, $129,000, June 5
7164 W Howard St.: Adeline Zoladz to Howard Shingawski Kenneth Shingawski, $194,000, June 5
7644 W Oakton St.: Maria Nikolasijevic Estate to Jeffrey Alfonso Ruzo Kristina Nuzui, $128,000, June 5
7646 N Nora Ave: Firstmerit Bank Na Trustee to Martin Okaz Dorak Oka, $282,500, May 30
7725 N Nordica Ave. Apt D: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Mone Liu Huwen Wen, $118,000, June 1
8000 W Foster Lane Apt 530: Jessica Schorsch to Shahan Kesheshian, $845,000, June 4
9017 N Grace Ave: Fannie Mae to Tania Gabriela Barros Amanda Andrade, $117,000, May 31

PARK RIDGE
1301 W Touhy Ave. Apt 113: Fannie Mae to Petya Mihaylova, $76,000, May 31
1650 Ballard Road: Weiland Trustee to Andrey Malinowski Grazyna Sitko, $240,000, June 1
170 N Northwest Highway Apt 407: Horvath Ventures LLC to Gerald P Marcinck Pearl A Marcinck, $200,000, May 31
314 S Cumberland Ave: Jone Curtis to Ann M Meckstrom Timothy J Shea, $440,000, June 1
412 S Greenwood Ave: Michael M Giersch to Andrew R Falconer Lisa Graf Falconer, $445,000, June 1
422 S Dee Road: McCarthuy Trustee to Munyong Hyun Kim, $165,000, May 30
434 S Dee Road Unit 5: Wells Fargo Bank Trustee to Edward Swir Alan Swir, $185,000, June 5
821 Oakton St.: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Jacek Orzech Krystyna Orzech, $144,000, June 1
826 N Deer Road: June S Zimmermann Estate to Maren D Iversen, $176,000, June 1
Updated split-level

1956 home has new roof, windows and appliances

9020 Oleander Ave., Morton Grove — $235,000

Built in 1956, this split-level home sits on a 0.16-acre lot. "The owners have really invested in its foundation, meaning the roof, furnace, water tank, windows and appliances are all brand new," said listing agent Robin Wilson of @properties.

A dining area with dropped lighting adjoins the living room and island kitchen, where highlights include a breakfast bar. The bedrooms have hardwood floors and ample storage. This home also features a partially finished basement, large back yard with patio and detached garage.

LISTING agent: Robin Wilson, @properties, 847-207-3775, robinwilson@atproperties.com

Beds: 3 Baths: 1.5

Tall living room windows overlook the front yard of this three-bedroom split-level in Morton Grove.

Selling a home that stands out from the rest?
E-mail us: hotproperties@blockshopper.com

MARKET WATCH

<table>
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<tr>
<th>City</th>
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Source: Chicago BlockShopper.com Data tracked last 12 months of sales
UPCOMING EVENTS

38th Season of "Concerts on The Hill" At Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park
Dates: Every Thursday evening through Aug. 30
Times: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park, 201 W. Jefferson St. in Joliet
Contact: 815-724-3760
www.bicentennialpark.org

Rialto Theatre Tours
Dates: Weekdays until Aug. 31
Times: 10 a.m. & noon
Location: 102 N. Chicago st. in Joliet
Contact: 815-727-7171
www.rialtosquare.com

Joliet Farmers Market
Dates: Every Friday until Sept. 28
Times: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Location: Chicago Street and Van Buren Plaza, 116 N. Chicago St. in Joliet
Contact: 815-774-6066
www.jolietfarms.com

NASCAR Nationwide/Camping World Truck Series at Chicagoland Speedway
Dates: July 21-22
Times: TBD
Location: Chicagoland Speedway, 500 Speedway Blvd. in Joliet
Contact: 815-722-5500
www.chicagolandspeedway.com

Race Fan Rally - NASCAR Event
Dates: Sept. 14, 2012
Times: 4-10 p.m.
Location: Downtown at 116 N. Chicago St. in Joliet
Contact: 815-722-1727
www.chicagolandspeedway.com

All Saints Greek Orthodox Church Taste of Greece Festival
Dates: July 13-15
Times: 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Friday; 12:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
Location: St. Sava Picnic Grounds, 3457 Black Road in Joliet, All Saints Greek Orthodox Church, 102 N. Broadway in Joliet
Phone: 815-774-6066
www.allsaintsjoilet.org

Chicagoland Speedway
Location: Downtown at 116 N. Chicago St. in Joliet
Contact: 815-774-6066
www.jolietdowntown.com

Sundowner 5K
Dates: July 19
Time: 7:15 p.m. start time
Location: Pitcher Park, 3000 W. Jefferson in Joliet
Contact: 815-741-7275 x206
www.jpdrun3.com

Joliet city of fun

Less than an hour from downtown Chicago, the city of Joliet is teeming with quality entertainment, exciting sports events, recreation and so much more!

Known as "The City of Champions," Joliet is a regional champion of tourism, culture and the arts. One of these gems is the spectacular Rialto Square Theatre. Considered one of the 10 most beautiful theaters in the nation, the theater sits proudly on Route 66 and is a destination for all who travel the Mother Road. Daily weekday tours of the theater are offered June through August at 10 a.m. and noon, beginning with a brief history of the Rialto and a walk through the grand Espianade and Rotunda's beautiful architecture and craftsmanship. At the end of the tour, you can take a seat and listen to the melodious sounds from the extraordinary Barton Grande Theatre Pipe Organ in the breathtaking auditorium (cost is $5 per person).

The Rialto Square Theatre has long attracted celebrity headliners to its stage. Offering concerts, comedy, Broadway, dance and family events, the Rialto ensures you can always find the entertainment you are looking for.

At the Joliet Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center, you can get the Route 66 experience without leaving Illinois. Chicago Street in downtown Joliet was once home to the original cross-country highway, and many remnants from that era are kept alive through the center's dynamic exhibits and educational programs.

Downtown Joliet is also home to a thriving arts scene. Joliet's Friends of Community Public Art has created colorful murals all over the city. Gallery 7, specializing in art photography, shows the work of regional artists all year round.

Unique places of interest include the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park, located along the Des Plaines River downtown, which celebrates the founding of Joliet in 1832. The Will County Forest Preserve has an extensive set of trails along the historic I & M Canal to explore, along with Joliet Iron Works Park where visitors can learn about the long history of Joliet's steel production.

And don't forget to stop at the Joliet State Prison Park and learn about this historic site dating from the Civil War era. Explore the rich past of the "Silk Stocking District" by stopping at the unbelievable Jacob Henry Mansion Estate.

If you're looking for that adventurous day trip or weekend get-away, look no further than Joliet, the city of fun! For more information, visit www.jolietkicks.com.
**Rialto Square Theatre**
www.rialtosquare.com
102 N. Chicago St. in Joliet
815-726-7171

The Rialto Theatre is a spectacular entertainment venue, an historical treasure and a magnet for the country's best performers. Get behind-the-scenes tours to see the architecture, listen to an organ concert, walk across the stage and visit the green room whose walls are adorned with hundreds of artists' signatures.

**Joliet Slammers**
www.joliet sluggers.com
1 Mayor Art Schultz Dr. in Joliet
815-722-2287

There's nothing like a summer ball game. Come cheer on the Joliet Slammers, Joliet's premier minor league baseball team, as they reach for their second Frontier League Championship at Silver Cross Field. It's an easy, affordable and fun way to make some memories this season. Check their website for their latest promotions and events.

**The Jacob Henry Mansion**
www.jacobhenrymansion.com
20 South Eastern Avenue in Joliet
815-722-1420

A 1873 National Historic Landmark and largest and best example of renaissance revival architecture in the Midwest, the Jacob Henry Mansion Estate offers the perfect location for weddings, group luncheons, social occasions, family reunions, and corporate functions.

**Joliet Park District**
www.jolietpark.org
3000 West Jefferson Street in Joliet
815-741-7275

The Joliet Park District is a ninety-year old park system with a wide range of institutions and facilities, from nature centers to conservatories to sports complexes and golf courses. In the summer, the park system is always teeming with activity for locals and visitors alike. The park is also home to the popular Splash Station Waterpark.

**Chicagoland Speedway**
www.chicagolandspeedway.com
500 Speedway Boulevard in Joliet
888-629-RACE

Visit the Chicagoland Speedway, the largest sports complex in Illinois, which hosts two major NASCAR events in the summer season. From stars like Dale Earnhardt Jr. to the ever popular Danica Patrick (a Roscoe, Illinois native), Chicagoland Speedway is nothing but non-stop fun.

**Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center**
www.jolietmuseum.org
204 North Ottawa Street in Joliet
815-723-5201

The Joliet Area Historical Museum promotes awareness, understanding and preservation of the Joliet area's diverse history. Come learn about Route 66, NASA engineer and Joliet native John C. Houbolt, and much more! Their rooftop music series is a must-see this summer.

**Explore Route 66**
www.jolietkicks.com
877-4-JOLIET

Route 66 still captures the imaginations of all who seek adventure. Come see all the famous highway attractions in downtown Joliet: Old Joliet Prison Park (1125 Collins St.), the Route 66 Park, I&M Canal, and Joliet Iron Works Park. Walking, driving and Gas Pump tours take you along the old path of the Route 66 highway.

**Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park**
www.bicentennialpark.org
201 W. Jefferson St. at Bluff St. in Joliet
815-724-3760

This historical river-front park will continue to host its 38th annual “Concert on the Hill” series, featuring local musicians and providing entertainment for the whole family. The park also hosts drama workshops, theatre events and musical performances all summer long.

**Harrah's Joliet Casino & Hotel**
www.harrahsjoliet.com
151 North Joliet Street in Joliet
815-740-7800

Located along the Des Plaines River in picturesque downtown Joliet, Harrah's Joliet Casino & Hotel offers the most exciting and finest hotel and casino in all of Chicagoland. With world-class amenities, dining, gaming and entertainment, Harrah's Joliet is the perfect place to stay and play!

**Louis Joliet Mall**
www.shoppinglouisjolietmall.com
3340 Mall Loop Drive in Joliet
815-439-1000

Louis Joliet Mall is located just an hour southwest of Chicago. The mall offers great shopping at four department stores: Carson Pirie Scott, JCPenney, Macy's and Sears, and includes a full lineup of stores like Aeropostale, American Eagle Outfitters, Bath & Body Works, Charming Charlie, Express, Kay Jewelers, and MC Sports.
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Following the recent action by the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education, we asked in Niles: "Do you agree with schools banning candy and treats from classroom parties?"

“No. I think an occasional treat is OK.”
JOY LEE, Niles

“I think a ban is fine and it will keep kids on a healthier diet and give parents more control.”
NORMA HERNANDEZ, Niles

“Any kind of healthy items that are for children and eliminate candy and sweets are a good idea.”
ELLEN STRASMA, Niles worker

“It’s a good idea because kids get plenty of sweets and it shouldn’t be in school.”
LINDSEY LEE, Park Ridge

“It’s a bad idea because it takes away some of the fun and you could supply healthy snacks.”
PAULA GAWEDZKI, Park Ridge

PIONEER PEOPLE POLL

Here are the answers to last week's question: What is your favorite summer anthem?

“California Girls” by Katy Perry 10%
“Sunshine” by DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince 20%
“Summertime Blues” by Eddie Cochran 5%

This week's question: In honor of National Hot Dog Month, who has the best hot dogs?
1. Superdawg, Chicago/Wheeling
2. Tasty Pup, Park Ridge
3. Portillo's, Niles
4. Dear Franks, Niles
5. Char House Grill, Morton Grove
6. Wally's, Park Ridge

To submit your answer, go to niles suntimes.com.

A Fourth for the family to remember forever

BY CHERYL O’DONOVAN
Van Mom Strikes Again

Everyone has special holiday memories, and ours is what I call the Forever Fourth of July. My oldest son was born 17 years ago, after an arduous 72-hour labor. My husband vowed he'd never get near another birthing room as long as he lived.

As a baby, my son did not babble or coo. When he was 15 months old, I had him evaluated at an esteemed university. Their findings were grim. Autism was likely, and it might be severe.

After a good cry, I pledged to do whatever I could to help him. While the expert expressed doubt that he understood language cues, my mother's heart told me he understood plenty — he just couldn’t speak yet.

Then we consulted a speech-and-language therapist whose optimism and gentleness were a contrast to the cool, clinical evaluation we’d received earlier. While they were "certain," she offered a humbler opinion, that he had speech apraxia. As long as he could communicate in some form, he could move toward forming sounds and, eventually, sentences.

We began therapy sessions with zeal. My kiddo made a great client: He was cooperative, smiley and caught on fast. We started with sign language and it became such a habit that my husband and I signed each other for the TV remote.

By his second birthday, my son was making new sounds and attempts at phrases. We were thrilled and I felt a renewed hope.

That summer, we attended the sprawling Rib Fest in Naperville with my sister and her family.

We fanned out an old quilt, settled on our ramps and waited for dusk. The event was packed, the air muggy and hot. We smeared on mosquito repellent and gulped down cold water.

Noisy fireworks can scare little ones, and we weren't sure how our son would react. Turned out, he loved the exploding colors in the night sky. Grinning, he clapped along with everyone else.

A swell of patriotic music signaled the finale. The crowd applauded wildly, whistle-cheered, and as the smoke cleared and the night fell silent, people stood up, stretched and began the mass exodus to the parking lots.

One little guy didn’t make a move, though. My husband and I looked at our son.

He signed “more” at the now-empty sky.

"Noisy fireworks can scare little ones, and we weren't sure how our son would react. Turned out, he loved the exploding colors in the night sky. Grinning, he clapped along with everyone else."
Get 'em a cold drink to beat the heat

Weather this hot summer awakens painful memories. Oh, sure, I'm sitting, writing this in air conditioning while outside — as the TV weather people intone — the temperature may reach triple digits.

I remember other asphalt-melting steamy days when I was a letter carrier strolling through the streets of Westchester, always attempting to make sure that neither rain, nor sleet nor hellish hot weather kept me from completing my appointed rounds.

As one of the newer and younger carriers, I was given a route no one else wanted. The reason no one wanted this particular route was its length — all single-family homes with long walkways and steps. The ideal route has lots of apartment buildings and few steps. For a letter carrier, the less walking, the better. And getting out of the sun or snow, depending on the season, also is good.

Long road to travel

But I had a long route — lots of steps, lots of sun.

My first day was a day like today, egg-frying hot and St. Louis humid. Before long I could barely read the addresses through the sweat running in rivulets into my eyes. My shirt and pants were soaked with sweat and as I climbed stairs I panted like a played-out German shepherd. At least I didn't drool.

Even today when I drive through Westchester, I always avoid that part of town. Who wants to revisit the place they were sure they were going to die? And about halfway through the route I really felt, as a Charles Dickens character put it, that I was about to be 'compelled to become immortal.'

Funny thing is, few people seemed to notice. There was this soggy, panting creature staggering down the street and people would just stand there and hold out their hand for the mail, or just say, "Have anything for me today?"

I would croak: Grzngakfordon. Then on to the next stop.

Angel of mercy

Only once that day did some nice lady gaze upon me with horror and pity. She ran inside and brought out a glass of cold water.

I think that glass of cold water is why I lived to tell this tale.

I finally finished the route about 6 p.m. — more than three hours late.

When my supervisor asked me where the hell I had been, I croaked: Grzngakfordon. "Wimp," I know he thought and gave me another route the next day.

The moral of this story is: It's going to be a hot summer, looks like. If you see your letter carrier coming, or the UPS driver, or whoever, offer something to drink, a glass of cold water, or iced tea, or maybe a soda.

It may seem like a small thing to do, but it isn't.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Golf Mill is key to retail rehabilitation

Over the past several months, the village of Niles has composed its Niles 2030 Comprehensive Plan creating a vision for Niles in the next 20 years.

This plan seems to encompass the entire community and provide for redevelopment among many of our business corridors. But to enact a vision of this magnitude, we need to start today.

The Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry had supported the Golf Mill Shopping Center Business District proposal, as we felt it was a positive step toward redevelopment for our largest and most commercial corridor. We were disappointed to see it rejected by village trustees.

Niles is a shopping—destination town and we should continue to capitalize on visitors and tourists spending their money here. Many of our business corridors look dated, and need obvious improvements and upgrades. All of our retail areas are a reflection of our town, and currently many of them need a fresh look.

We should work toward creating a new image for Niles.

With a Business District designation, the village of Niles could have actively pushed for the mall to make necessary changes. Looking at other redevelopment in surrounding areas, it seems that we are falling behind other towns.

If we want to maintain our "Best Place to Raise Kids" status and keep welcoming young families to Niles, then we need to start discussing how to implement plans for signage, landscaping, efficient traffic patterns and attracting more appealing shopping, restaurants and entertainment.

How are we going to enact the vision of the Niles 2030 Comprehensive Plan, particularly for the business corridors? Are businesses going to pay for it? Shouldn't the Niles 2030 Comprehensive Plan be a collective effort with businesses and the village?

The current construction and improvements set for Milwaukee Avenue from Hartie Road to Monroe Street are very positive steps in the right direction, but they are only scratching the surface. We need to create or maybe re-create (depending on our perspective) an image for Niles that focuses on our retail centers, destination points and our busiest thoroughfare — Milwaukee Avenue.

We can respect the decision of the trustees to reject the Golf Mill Shopping Center Business District; however, it still leaves unresolved issues with the mall.

We implore the village to continue to discuss and find other ways to fund redevelopment projects such as this for our business community.

Katie Schneider
Executive Director

Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Extra savings apply to reduced prices. Valid now-7/31/2012.
312-321-3146

Scan these codes with any QR Code Reader to find out more information.

todrive.com

To Drive North
Zanies comedy comes to Rosemont

BY DAN PEARSON
Contributor

Laughter is on the house this weekend when Zanies Comedy Night Club celebrates the opening of its new Rosemont location.

There’s no admission charge for the first weekend, said Bert Hassen, Zanies executive vice-president.

The opener’s Chicago All-Stars lineup includes Pat McGann, Dobie Maxwell and Larry Reeb, so Hassen strongly suggests reservations. “I predict it will be the hottest room in the country,” he said.

It’s the entertainment, not the temperature he’s talking about. Air conditioning in the brand new space will be just fine, thank you.

**Ribbon-cutting**

The celebration kicks off at 6:45 p.m. Friday, July 6, when the ribbon is cut with an oversize pair of clown scissors.

“You have to have a special pair of scissors because if you used a regular pair it would look pretty silly,” said Hassen. And Zanies is a comedy club, after all.

The new venue marks the end of an odyssey that began about three years ago when the club closed its Vernon Hills location. Hassen noted that Zanies was approached at that time by the Village of Rosemont, which was developing its new entertainment zone.

After checking out possible sites in Evanston, Zanies opted for Rosemont. The original Zanies on Wells Street in Chicago’s Old Town has been in business since 1978.

The new club will seat 250. “It’s a bit smaller than Vernon Hills but with that intimacy of the downtown club. The furthest seat is about 30 feet from the stage. We’ve tried to design the room so that everyone is facing the stage,” said Hassen.

Food offerings, Hassen said, have been scaled down. “It’s not going to be a big one like we had in Vernon Hills,” he explained. “We have food as an amenity but our focus is on the entertainment.”

Opening weekend with Reeb, Maxwell and McGann showcases comedians that Hassen believes epitomize Chicago stand-up comedy.

“Larry opened the Zanies at Pheasant Run in St. Charles in 1989, and Dobie opened and was our last comedian at Vernon Hills, which closed after 19 years,” Hassen noted. He added that Sally Edwards will also do a set and, “I understand there will be a lot of people dropping in because everyone is curious about the room.”

The following week, July 11-12, Zanies will hold Rosemont Appreciation Nights, with free admission for village residents.

Hassen believes the Rosemont location will attract the suburban audience. “For one thing, there’s plenty of parking in an 8,400-car garage or in 100 surface spots — and it’s free.”

**New exit**

Plus, making it easier to get to Zanies, is the recently opened Balmoral exit off I-294. “It literally takes you to the entertainment complex at the MB Financial Park,” said Hassen. “We’re trying to make it as easy and fun as possible for everyone.”

Supplying a substantial amount of that fun will be headliner Larry Reeb on opening night. Reeb, who lives in Chicago’s Jefferson Park neighborhood, believes that though the world is sick, there’s still plenty of funny things happening to make him a happy guy.

For instance, he said, he was recently searched by a one-armed security guard. “The guard said, I’m going to put you down and this won’t take long! And I am thinking, it will take twice as long as it usually does. That’s a true story. I look for odd stuff like that.”

Reeb is also happy about the new Rosemont Zanies because he is, in a way, back home. Reeb got his start in stand-up 35 years ago in Rosemont at the Comedy Cottage, the first comedy showcase club in the Midwest.

“I think it closed in 1986 before the big comedy boom. It was on Devon and River across from where the casino is now,” he recalled. “I do two 15-minute sets a night, four or five nights a week for free to get some stage time. That’s how you learn.”

And what has Reeb learned over the years?

“I just try to be funny and have a good time. I try to get to the punch line as quick as I can.”
Families will flip over pancakes in woods

It's hard to think of a better way for a family to start a summer day than at Emily Oaks Nature Center's Pancake Breakfast in the Woods from 8:30 a.m. to noon Sunday at 4650 Brummel St., Skokie.

"It's been successful in the past so we're keeping the same format and menu," said facility manager Lee A. Hansen. "It's all-you-can-eat pancakes. We do have a limit on the turkey sausage and strawberry topping."

Orange juice, coffee and water are included.

"We'll have some tents up for shade and the wonderful oak trees provide shade," Hansen said. "You're welcome to take a walk before or after breakfast. Head to the pond and see the fish and the geese, walk the trails and enjoy being out here in the morning."

The entire event is volunteer run with all proceeds supporting nature center programming.

Tickets are $7, $5 for children younger than 10. Advance reservations are encouraged.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500, or visit skokieparks.org.

Wonders never cease

Families are invited to be part of Filament Theatre's interactive performance, "Alice and Me," at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Niles Public Library, 6950 W. Oakton St. The original production is based on Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."

Pick up tickets at 10:30 a.m. that day in the youth services department.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or visit nileslibrary.org.

Mall calls

Preschoolers are invited to have summertime fun during a WFamily event from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the lower level of Barnes & Noble at Westfield Old Orchard, Skokie. The Skokie Public Library partners with the shopping center each month for a storytime followed by a related make-it-and-take-it craft project.

For details, call (847) 678-6800 or visit westfield.com/oldorchard.

Summer chills (and thrills)

Storyteller Paddy Lynn will share Scary Stories for a Summer's Eve from 7 to 7:45 p.m. Monday at the Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. The spine-tingling tales are best for kids going into first through sixth grade. Pick up tickets in advance.

For details, call (847) 825-3123 or visit parkridgelibrary.org.
**MOVIEW REVIEW**

**New 'Spider-Man' — dramatically improved**

**BY BRUCE INGRAM**

Film Critic

**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**

1½

Talk about a tough act to follow.

It's hard to imagine how director Marc Webb, with only one previous feature to his credit, the charming but decidedly non-superheroic indie romance "(500) Days of Summer," wasn't paralyzed with fear at the prospect of taking over the reins of Sam Raimi's spectacularly successful "Spider-Man" franchise. (A development prompted, according to a New York magazine article, by the rising costs of Raimi's sequels combined with his reluctance to sign on for another.) Particularly since Webb's assignment involved rebooting the entire story from scratch with Raimi's trilogy still fresh in moviegoer memory.

Amazingly, though, "The Amazing Spider-Man" quickly establishes itself as a worthy successor by telling the same story in a different — and in some ways superior — manner.

Though it certainly delivers plenty of adrenaline-pumping action, Webb's "Spider-Man" doesn't score quite as high in terms of visual dazzle (or tongue-in-cheek comic book sensibility) as Raimi at his best. It's apparent from the opening moments, though, that Webb intends to take the heavy-duty dramatic elements in the story seriously — and that he knows how to make them go ka-ching!

There's a substantial sense of gravitas in the new "Spider-Man," which begins with very young Peter Parker losing his parents (including his genetic biologist father) in tragic/mysterious circumstances and continues throughout.

Though outwardly untroubled and easy-going, brainy high-school social outcast Peter Parker (Andrew Garfield of "The Social Network") is secretly tormented by parental abandonment and inherently serious while coming of age, with all its attendant complications including identity crisis, conscience management and first love.

And an unofficial after-school job policing New York City with super powers recently acquired from a radioactive arachnid.

The latter is acquired around the time Peter first catches the eye of his high-school dream girl Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone), when he discovers a vaseline left behind by his father, and a secret formula much-needed by his father's former partner in "cross-species genetics" research, one-armed Dr. Curt Connors (Rhys Ifans of "Anonymous").

While touring the lab, Peter encounters a nest of radioactive spiders created by his late father and receives the fateful/Freudian fang that will imbue him with spider super-awesomeness — and eventually pit him in mortal, Manhattan-dragging combat against Dr. Connors, whose attempts to re-generate his missing limb with reptile DNA turns him into a giant lizard intent on world domination.

What was that bit about the "substantial sense of gravitas," you're probably wondering about now?

Right here: While Peter is tackling The Lizard, he's also racked with guilt over the death of his Uncle Ben (Martin Sheen), who is murdered by a runaway hold-up man that Peter, in a moment of teenage petulance, does nothing to stop.

So, Spider-Man is born out of guilt and a desire for vengeance as Peter combs the city for his uncle's killer. Thats nothing new for anyone familiar with the Spider-saga, but the difference here is that Webb and Garfield make that initial thirst for vigilante justice seem painful, dark and genuine.

Fans of the "Spider-Man" comic books are likely to be pleased with the way this adaptation cleaves more closely to the original story, both in terms of details like Peter's development of mechanical web shooters, as opposed to the mutated biologically generated webbing in Raimi's films, and in emotional tone. Garfield's Peter has an edgy, brooding quality that was missing in Tobey Maguire's kinder, more emotional tone. Garfield's Peter has an edge, brooding quality that was missing in Tobey Maguire's kinder, more emotional tone. Garfield's Peter has an edge, brooding quality that was missing in Tobey Maguire's kinder, more emotional tone.

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**FILM CLIPS**

**OPENING FRIDAY**

**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**

* * * 1/2


Stars: Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone, Rhys Ifans

- Orphaned teenager Peter Parker (Garfield) discovers that nothing will ever be the same after a radioactive spider bite gives him arachnid super powers. Marc Webb directed this reboot of the Marvel superhero franchise.

**BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD**

* * * 1/2

Rated: PG-13 for thematic material including child impertinence, some disturbing images, language and brief sensuality.

Stars: Quvenzhane Wallis, Dwight Henry, Gina Montana

- Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance and the Camera d'Or at Cannes, this debut feature by young New Orleans writer/director Benh Zeitlin is every bit as baffling as it is visually dazzling, but if you have an appetite for adventurous fare, don't miss it. A sort of free-floating, stream-of-consciousness rumination on life by its five-year-old motherless heroine, Hushpuppy (Wallis, a truly fierce and fascinating presence), "Beasts of the Southern Wild" kind of, sort of, tells the story of her crazy, terminally ill, perpetually drunken father (Henry) and their down and out neighbors (most played by non-pros) in a rag-tag squatters' community on the seaward side of a levee — and what happens to them after a hurricane destroys their homes and kills off their food supply. But what's up with that rampaging herd of giant, apocalyptic prehistoric warthogs?

**KATY PERRY: PART OF ME**

Don't Speak

July 7

Rated: PG for some suggestive content, language, thematic elements and brief smoking.

Stars: Katy Perry, Shannon Woodward, Lucas Kerr, Glen Ballard

- The pop star's life on and off stage is the subject of this documentary directed by Dan Caffrey and Jane Lipitz ("Justin Bieber: Never Say Never").

**SAVAGES**

Rated: R for strong, brutal and grisly violence, some graphic sexuality, nudity, drug use and language throughout.

Stars: Aaron Johnson, Taylor Kitsch, Benicio Del Toro, Salma Hayek, John Travolta

- Two friends (Johnson and Kitsch) and their shared girlfriend (Blake Lively) enjoy an idyllic life as successful marijuana growers until a Mexican cartel decides to cut in on their business. Oliver Stone ("Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps") directed the crime drama.

**TAKE THIS WALTZ**

Rated: R for language, some strong sexual content and graphic nudity.

Stars: Michelle Williams, Seth Rogen, Luke Kirby

- The life of happily married woman (Williams) is complicated when she falls for an artist (Kirby) who lives across the street. Sarah Polley ("Away from Her") wrote and directed the comedy-drama.

**STILL PLAYING**

**MAGIC MIKE**

* * * 1/2

Rated: R for pervasive sexual content, brief graphic nudity, language and some drug use.

Stars: Channing Tatum, Matthew McConaughey, Olivia Munn

- Whatever other benefits Tatum might have enjoyed during his brief stint as a teenage male stripper, his g-string days have supplied him with his best role, more or less playing himself, apparently, in Steven Soderbergh's sexy and surprisingly substantial portrait of a cheerfully sleazy subculture. Pushing 30, Mike (Tatum) hopes to parlay stripping-cash into a custom-furniture business, when he reluctantly takes a clueless furniture business, when he reluctantly takes a clueless boyfriend, then convinces the kid's shower-singing boyfriend (acclaimed tenor Fabio Armiliato) to suds and warble while playing Pagliacci on stage in a portable bathtub, is a modest selling point — and the scrub-brush Pagliacci is a wonderfully absurd ongoing sight gag. Otherwise, this tired assemblage of half-developed love stories is a dull disappointment after last year's delightful "Midnight in Paris."

**MADEA'S WITNESS PROTECTION**

Rated: PG-13 for some crude sexual remarks and brief drug references.

Stars: Tyler Perry, Eugene Levy, Denise Richards

- A Wall Street investment banker (Levy) who has agreed to testify against the mob is relocated by the FBI to the home of Madea (Perry) and her family. Perry ("Good Deeds") wrote and directed the comedy.

**PEOPLE LIKE US**

Rated: PG-13 for language, some drug use and brief sexuality.

Stars: Chris Pine, Elizabeth Banks, Michelle Pfeiffer

- After his father dies, a young man (Pine) has to deliver an inheritance to a sister (Banks) he has never known. Screenwriter Alex Kurtzman ("Cowboys and Aliens") makes his directorial debut with the drama.
### SHOWTIMES

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<tr>
<th>Theater</th>
<th>Movie</th>
<th>Showtimes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arlington Theaters</td>
<td>The Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) Fri-Thu 11:45-12:45; 4:30-5:30-6:30-8:30-9:30</td>
<td>Tue Thu 11:45-12:45; 4:30-5:30-6:30-8:30-9:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel (PG-13)</td>
<td>Saturday, Sun 11:10 a.m. - Free</td>
<td>Saturday, Sun 11:10 a.m. - Free</td>
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<td>Rosemont 18</td>
<td>The Best Exotic Marigold (PG-13) Fri-Thu 11:45-12:45; 4:30-5:30-6:30-8:30-9:30</td>
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**Bill Murray stars in "Moonrise Kingdom."** **Photograph by Niko Tavernise**
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STAGE
"Home" will be presented by Fleetwood-Joad Theatre through July 15 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Performances are at 7 p.m. Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are $10 in advance; $12 at the door. Visit www.cityofevanston.org/betheatre or call (847) 448-8254.

Midwest New Musicals presents "North Shore Rhythms and Blues," the culminating performance for authors in the Midwest New Musicals musical theater writers workshop, at 3 p.m.

July 22 at Light Opera Works Second Stage at McGaw YMCA Children's Center, 1420 Maple Ave (at Lake), Evanston. $10. Call (847) 920-5360.


Spectraia Theatre will present a family-friendly, 90-minute version of Shakespeare's "As You Like It" in various Chicago parks through Aug. Performances are at 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, July 5, 12, 19, 26; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, July 15, 22-27; and 7 p.m. Sundays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Tickets: $24-$34. Optional dinner package available for an additional $20 (plus tax and tip). Call (847) 955-4849 or visit www.theoubique.org.

"With a Song In My Heart: The Romance of Richard Rodgers," 7:30 p.m. July 14, 27-28; 2 p.m.

The Music Institute of Chicago Chorale will present "Music: In Time and Out of Time" 8 p.m. July 22 at the No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood (Rogers Park), Chicago. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, July 5, 12, 19, 26; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, July 20-21, 27-28; and 7 p.m. Sundays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Tickets: $29-$34. Optional dinner package available for an additional $20 (plus tax and tip). Call (800) 595-4849 or visit www.thecolleque.org.

Music of Bach, Handel and Vivaldi performed by the Chicago Bach Ensemble, conducted by Daniel Wal- lenfels at the Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at the University of Chicago. Performances are at 8 p.m. July 13, 20, 27.

Noon recital at the University of Chicago. Performances are at 8 p.m. July 13, 20, 27.

PLAY REVIEW

Marriott’s ‘Hero’ has super heart

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES

There’s a world premiere musical at the Marriott Theatre, and it does everything right.

“Hero,” with words and lyrics by Michael Mahler and conceived and written by Aaron Thielen, has hummable tunes, smart lyrics, a comical couple, a tortured pair and a story that goes straight to your heart. Plus the first-act ending is a powerful cliff-hanger.

Set in a comic book shop in Milwaukee named “Brew City Comics,” the musical begins with an assortment of characters singing a knock-out number titled “My Superhero Life,” which begins with the words “If life were like the comics.”

It is not, of course, so don’t worry about superior beings leaping buildings in a single bound. There is a phone booth, but it’s just for making calls.

The leading man, played by Erich Bergen, is named Hero and he’s a mild-mannered, 28-year-old comic book artist still living at home. His Dad, a good-hearted widower named Al Batowski (Don Forston), can’t quite push his son out of the nest.

You can understand why. Brew City Comics is a world unto itself, a comfy if a little thread-bare haven for guys having trouble growing up. Those guys, frankly, who don’t seem to have a life.

She’s back in town

Into this modest world walks Jane, Hero’s high-school sweetheart, played by the marvelous Heidi Kettenring. They haven’t seen each other for 10 years and she is back in town after a divorce. She’s taken a job teaching with her family.

The boy-meets-girl, boy-loses-girl thing has already happened before the curtain goes up, and the question is whether Jane and Hero, now a decade older and hopefully wiser, will realize they are right for each other.

This isn’t the only story. Hero has a zany, hyperactive cousin Kirk, played by the hilarious Alex Goodrich, who is sure he can shake Hero out of his isolation by dragging him out to meet girls.

Kirk’s wise-cracking younger brother, Nate, is portrayed by the adorable Jonah Rawitz. He’s 12 going on 40, and both he and Kirk ratchet up the comedy every time they are on stage.

In fact, it is Kirk who meets a new girl, Susan, Jane’s buttoned-down teaching colleague, portrayed with perfect comic timing by the lovely Dara Cameron. Kirk, who never makes a move without his guitar, serenades her with possibly the world’s nuttiest love song, “A Vampire’s Kiss Means Forever” and soon she is bitten er, smitten, and throw her inhibitions to the winds.

The casting is superb. Bergen, who played Bob Gaudio in the “Jersey Boys” national tour (though not in Chicago), has a strong voice and is able to pull off the most touching scenes.

Kettenring is a Chicago favorite, a show-biz wiz-kid with an authenticity that shines through every character she plays. Her duet with Bergen, “That's My Kryptonite,” rises above comic-book jargon and is as charming as any good love song.

Framed by losses

The drama is framed by two sad losses, each of which causes Hero to retreat into himself and reject Jane’s love. Keeping faith with the spirit of the American musical, Thielen has penned a happy ending. But one wonders how long the buoyant Jane will be able to keep Hero afloat before life throws him another curve and he begins a new battle with depression.

Composer/lyricist Michael Mahler is a Northwestern University grad who wrote more than 50 songs for the WAA-MU show. After graduation he and Alan Schmuckler wrote the highly successful “How Can You Run with a Shell on Your Back?”

For “Hero,” Mahler has written beautiful ballads and lively show tunes, all with strong, graceful lyrics. One of those numbers is “The Start of Something Good.” That certainly could be said about this very entertaining show.
**GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6B**


**REGENSTEIN RECITAL HALL**

Northwestern University, 60 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. July 8, 2 p.m.: Faculty trombonist Michael Mulcahy performs Albrechtsberger’s Concerto for Alto Trombone, featuring pianist Yoko Yamada-Selvaggio. Admission is free.

**POP/FOLK/JAZZ**

Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For information about the theater, visit www.ticketmaster.com. Aug. 3-4, 8 p.m.: Il visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. For information about the theater, include service fees. For information, visit www.ticketmaster.com. July 18: 7:30 p.m.: American Idol Live! Tour - Def Leppard/Poison with special guest Lita Ford. $59.50, $79.50, $99. July 19: 7 p.m.: Rock of Ages Tour - Def Leppard/Poison with special guest Lita Ford. $59.50, $79.50, $99. Aug. 3, 7 p.m.: American Idol Live! Tour 2012. $29.50, $45, $65.

**THE PARK RIDGE CHORALE**


**ARTS CENTER**

Visit www.novasciencearts.org. July: “Birds of a Feather,” scheduled to open Oct. 4-26. Deadline for entries is July 15. For further information, call (847) 800-0978 or e-mail artshow@greenervanston.org.

**THE KOENHLINE MUSEUM OF ART**

At Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, invites women artists to submit work for the juried exhibition “The Personal is Political: The Transformative Power of Women’s Art,” scheduled to run Oct. 4-26. Deadline for entries is July 15. For further information, visit www.oakton.edu/newsevents/events/WGS_art_entry.pdf. For information, contact Nathan Harpaz at (847) 635-2633 or nharpaz@oakton.edu.

**AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES**

Sookie Art Guild is seeking artists for its 51st annual Art Fair, to be held July 14-15 on the Village Green, 5211 Oakton, Skokie. Fine art; prizes and awards available. For information, visit www.sookieartguild.org or call (847) 417-7133.

**SIMPLY CHICAGO ART**

Seeks artists for its “Green Arts Show,” to be presented Sept. 7-23 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Evanston. Works will be judged on artistic merit and use of concepts or materials that promote awareness of green and sustainable ways of living. $35 non-refundable application fee. Application deadline is July 15. For further information, call (847) 381-4554 or e-mail info@sookies.com.

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BLUE MAN GROUP

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—Chicago Sun-Times

Shows 7 Days A Week!
Artists do what comes natural

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Contributor

Natural splendor is on display 24/7 at the Chicago Botanic Garden, but there will be beauty of another sort, as a bonus, when the CBG Art Festival returns this weekend.

Ninety artists from around the country, in categories including painting, photography, jewelry and 3-D functional art (pottery, hand-crafted furniture and fashion), will offer original works for sale July 6 through 8 in the juried fest. All the art on display will be botanical-oriented, either in theme, material (anything from dried flowers to earth materials such as stone or gems) or use (think garden furniture or sculpture).

"It's the botanical tie-in that makes this show unique," said festival creator Amy Amdur. Amdur launched it nearly 10 years ago, then returned last summer after a break with a fest that broke Botanic Garden attendance records.

"All of the artists in this show are amazing, but excellence isn't enough to get you into this show. Your work has to be botanical in nature, one way or another. I don't know of any other festival like it in the country. And it's so appropriate in this setting, because it gives people the chance to appreciate the natural beauty represented by the Botanic Garden," she said.

Many exhibitors travel considerable distances to take part in this show, but the Chicago area is well-represented, including two artists from Skokie.

Painted silks

A native of Poland, fiber artist Joanna Alot-Ciecholewski mastered the techniques of her trade at school in Milanowek, a town famed for silk manufacture and design. Alot-Ciecholewski's own claim to fame for the past 22 years has been her hand-painted silk ties and scarves — each approached as an individual work of art. Her customers include Hillary Clinton and Mrs. Michael Jordan.

In keeping with the theme of the Botanic Garden fest, the artist will be featuring "a lot of flower designs: a whole range of them, poppies, roses, daffodils..." She will also be exhibi-
ing examples of her new (and very labor-intensive) “organic printing” technique, which begins with a silk screen, progresses to hand painting and ends with “a printing technique that creates a 3-D effect.”

“Just a unique technique,” said Alot-Ciecholewski, noting that the School of the Art Institute has ordered a thousand pieces based on a few designs, for sale in its catalogue and boutique. “Some people look at them and think I’ve just sent them off to China to be printed, but this is something different. Sometimes I wish it was that easy.”

For more on Joanna Alot-Ciecholewski, visit her website at www.joannalot.com.

Nature’s forms

Lynn Floriano has been working in jewelry design since learning about it in college 20 years ago. She makes a specialty of enameling, set off by silver, gold and semi-precious stones, incorporating the techniques of limoge, cloisonne and grillage for varied effect. Her pins, pendants, necklaces and earrings are often inspired by the elegant forms of nature.

“The thing I love about enameling is that you can learn it very quickly, but it takes a lifetime to master,” said Floriano, who will be featuring an organic series depicting fruits and flowers on vines at the Botanic fest. “Even now, when I start to work, I lose track of time. You can’t ask for much more than that, can you?”

For more on Lynn Floriano, visit her website at lynnfloriano.com.
To advertise, call Alicia Antoniolli at (312) 321-2330 or aantoniolli@suntimes.com
GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8B

BOOKS & POETRY

Northwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. July 9, 10 a.m.: "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," rated G.

North Park, 10040 Addison St. (847) 253-5675. July 20-22: Mount Prospect Friends of the Library summer book sale. Friday is Friends Member Only night, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Annual $5 memberships available at the door. Free entry sale from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday and noon-4:30 p.m. Sunday.

CHILD'S PLAY
Ako Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For information about the theater, visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. Aug. 9, 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.: The Wiggles! 7 p.m.: "Inherit the Wind." 7 p.m.: "We Need to Talk About Kevin." 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. July 22 and 29 in Northwestern University's Hal and Martha Hyer Wallis Theater, Theatre and Interpretation Center, 1949 Campus Drive, Evanston. Recommended for children age 5 to 10 and their families. Tickets: $10. Call (847) 491-7282 or visit www.tct.northwestern.edu.

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. July 9, 10 a.m.: "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," rated G.

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 N. River Road, Rosemont. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. July 9, 11 a.m.: "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," rated G.

Dining

Dinners at the door. Free entry sale from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday and noon-4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. July 9, 10 a.m.: "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," rated G.
The bells of the Botanic Garden

BY DONALD LIEBENSON

The Chicago Botanic Garden's carillon concert series, a tradition since 1986, is in full swing. Every Monday night through Sept. 3, the Garden will be alive with the uniquely thrilling sound of bells, 48 cup-shaped bronze bells, to be exact, each forged in Holland.

On a recent and rapturously beautiful evening, Tim Steep, one of a distinguished roster of carillonneurs performing at the Garden this summer, performed a selection of pieces ranging from classical and Scott Joplin syncopations to the Broadway standard "The Impossible Dream."

**Familiar tunes**

"People love hearing a piece of music they recognize," he says. He is quick to add, "Every song can be played (on a carillon), but not every song should be." This from a man who has played Lady Gaga on the bells.

The cast of bells played manually on a keyboard that resembles that of a piano, but with identical-looking wooden levers that resemble batons instead of keys, which the performer manipulates with his or her fists.

In addition, there are pedal keys. The Garden's four-octave Theodore C. Butz Memorial Carillon, located in the landmark tower on Evening Island, is one of only five carillons in Illinois. There are upward of 180 in Evanston, with a view of the Butz Carillon tour, Aug. 25; "Funny Face" (1957).

**CARILLON CONCERTS**

Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe
7 p.m. Mondays through Sept. 3
Preconcert carillon tours and demonstrations 5:30-6:30 p.m. (every 15 minutes).
Admission is free; parking is $20 per car
See www.chicagobotanic.org/carillon or call (847) 935-5440

**Tours & Outings**

The Evanston History Center presents a summer walking tour series June through October 2012. Conducted by Kris Hartzell, EHC's director of Visitor Services and Facilities, the tours will focus on a range of topics. Each tour begins and ends at the Dawes House, 225 Greenwood St., Evanston, and will take place rain or shine.

**WORKSHOPS & CLASSES**

July 19, 7:30-8:45 p.m.: Niles' Songwriters group meets. Area songwriters are invited to bring original songs to share and receive feedback.
Skokie Art Guild offers figure drawing workshops from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Live models; no instructor. Fee per session is $20; $12 for members. For information, call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

**ET CETERA**

Monday Night Car Show, 5-9 p.m. every Monday, through Sept. 10, in the west parking lot of Old Orchard shopping center, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Cars on display will include classic cars, muscle cars, hot rods, motorcycles, and vintage military vehicles. There will also be food, food, and hourly raffles. Visit www.mondaysnightcarshows.com.

**MUSEUMS**


**GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13B**

20. "Evanston's Lakefront," Aug. 18 and Oct. 6. The Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park, located along the east side of McCormick Boulevard, between Dempster on the north to Touhy on the south, offers free, docent-led tours featuring a different section of the two-mile-long park each month. Tours last approximately one hour and feature discussions of the sculptures, their creating artists, types of materials used and techniques employed as well as the artists' concepts for the various pieces. The park is handicapped accessible but the tours require walking between the sculptures, so people who have difficulty are encouraged to bring a wheelchair. All tours begin promptly at 1 p.m. No reservations are required. For information, visit www.sculpturepark.org or call (847) 679-4265. July 22: Section IV, park in the lot between Howard and Touhy.

Aug. 26: Section I, park in the lot between Dempster and Main streets on the east side of McCormick Boulevard.

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Skokie Art Guild offers figure drawing workshops from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Live models; no instructor. Fee per session is $20; $12 for members. For information, call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

**ET CETERA**

Monday Night Car Show, 5-9 p.m. every Monday, through Sept. 10, in the west parking lot of Old Orchard shopping center, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Cars on display will include classic cars, muscle cars, hot rods, motorcycles, and vintage military vehicles. There will also be food, food, and hourly raffles. Visit www.mondaysnightcarshows.com.

**MUSEUMS**

HOROSCOPES

For the week of July 11 — July 17

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Aspects favor socializing with family and friends, but an irksome workplace situation could intrude. No use grumbling, Lamb. Just do it, and then get back to the fun times.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) There's still time for you Ferdinands and Fernandas to relax and sniff the roses. But a major work project looms and soon will demand much of your attention through the 23rd.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your enthusiasm persuades even the toughest doubters to listen to what you're proposing. But don't push too hard, or you'll push them away. Moderate for best results.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your energy levels are rising, and you feel you can handle anything the job requires. That's great. But don't isolate yourself. Keep your door open to your workplace colleagues.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A workplace change could lead to that promotion you've been hoping for. But you'll have to face some tough competition before the Lion can claim his or her share of the goodies.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your rigidity regarding a difficult workplace situation could be the reason your colleagues aren't rushing to your assistance. Try being more flexible in your demands.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) That uneasy mood could be your Libran inner voice reminding you that while it's great to be with your new friends, you need to take care not to ignore your old ones.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A sudden spate of criticism could shake the Scorpion's usually high sense of self-confidence. Best advice: You made a decision you believed in — now defend it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your reluctance to help restart a stalled relationship could be traced to unresolved doubts about your partner's honesty. Rely on a trusted friend's advice.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The capricious Sea Goat is torn between duty and diversion. Best advice: Do both. Tend to your workaday chores, then go out and enjoy your well-earned fun time.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Cutting back on some of your activities for a few days helps restore your energy levels. You should be feeling ready to tackle your many projects early next week.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A co-worker might be secretly carping about your work to mutual colleagues. But associates will come to your defense, and the situation will ultimately work to your advantage.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your ambition makes you a success at whatever you choose to do — especially if it's in the world of the performing arts.

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This page contains details about the person named Margot Krawczyk. The text describes her life, achievements, and the events surrounding her death. It includes information about her family, friends, and her passing. The text also mentions a gathering of family and friends to honor her life. The service will be held at the Evanston/Skokie area with her husband, as well as a Mass at Saint Joan of Arc Church. The article also acknowledges the contributions to the Misericordia Center and the St. Joseph's Church. The text ends with a memorial service and the family's wish for people to remember her and her loved ones.
Why Do these Companies Hire Veterans? Answer: Job Skills

By: John Rosheim, Monster Senior Contributing Writer

You'd think that employers would find a tremendous source of skills in people who can:
- Jump from planes to quickly subdue enemies on the battlefield.
- Collaborate in confined quarters to operate complex nuclear technologies at great ocean depths.
- Simultaneously translate sensitive communications from any of a hundred languages.

And the fact is – you'd be right.

But matches between highly-skilled veterans and the companies that need them aren't always easy to make. While tools such as the Military Tools Translator and Veterans Talent Index can help, millions of former servicemen and women still have difficulty finding work.

These four employers hire veterans for their diverse job skills:

**Prudential: Helping Skilled Veterans with a Challenging Translation**

Prudential Financial has found its military recruitment program to be a great investment in human capital. "We've hired veterans from entry-level to management," says Toni McDaniel, Director of Diversity Recruiting at Prudential in Newark, N.J. "They are great at project management, at working processes from end to end."

Prudential has encountered challenges with getting candidates to sell their skills in terms that HR and hiring managers can understand, according to McDaniel.

Cyrell Johnson, an Army veteran and employee of the US Bureau of Reclamation, experienced this confusion firsthand. "I found it difficult leaving the military and entering the job market, finding the right job that matched my skills."

Prudential's solution? "We work with organizations that help veterans better communicate their skills to employers," McDaniel says. The US Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes campaign is one such program.

**Siemens: Large-scale Recruitment for Broad Array of Technical Challenges**

Siemens has begun using aggressive military recruitment to fill a large talent gap.

"We've had 3,000 open requisitions for a long time in engineering, sales and so on," says Mike Panigel, Senior Vice President of Human Resources at Siemens, a global electronics and engineering firm with U.S. headquarters in Washington, D.C. "We've brought in 530 veterans in about a year, from service and field technicians to marketers and project engineers."

Siemens hires veterans, finding them to be a superior pool of candidates. "Technicians coming out of the military have worked on complex, expensive, large equipment," says Panigel. Perhaps due to the company's large size and financial clout, Siemens has been able to handle the uncertainties that come with employees' military reserve duty, according to Panigel. "Reservists' military obligations have not been a problem for us," he says.

**PPL: Mining a Rich and Rare Vein of Nuclear Knowhow**

Where in the world do you find a reliable source of nuclear engineers? For energy company PPL Corp., the answer is clear. PPL recruits veterans as plant operators, technicians and instructors, among other roles.

PPL sources veteran candidates by going to the source. "We target three military bases that house individuals who are likely to have the qualifications for our jobs," says Coy. Through the military recruitment process, PPL keeps an eye out for candidates who appear able to overcome the organizational culture shock they will likely face.

"Navy vets find things a little different here," says Coy. "In the civilian world, people talk back to you once in a while."

**Alpine Access: Flexible Work for a Diverse Veteran Workforce**

Disabled veterans are another significant labor pool with varied skills to offer private-sector employers.

"We recruit people who might not be able to work outside the home," says Stacey Orin, Manager of Flex Recruiting at Alpine Access, a Denver-based third-party call center whose customer service representatives are home-based.

Orin says veterans have what it takes to put in long shifts, speaking with customers, satisfied and otherwise. "One of the things we look for – and find – in veterans is the ability to communicate and to focus on the job at hand," says Orin.
A completely redesigned Mercedes-Benz CLS-Class debuts for 2012 with much improved exterior and interior styling, and a choice between two twin-turbocharged V-8s.

The new CLS is possibly the most eye-catching Mercedes-Benz in the lineup. M-B calls the CLS a four-door coupe. I won’t argue with that. But one thing is for sure, the 2012 CLS sports sleek coupelike sweeping lines, a bolder nose and a sportier stance that draw a lot of attention.

The 2012 CLS is available in three versions. There’s the CLS550 ($71,300), CL5550 4Matic ($73,800) and CLS63 AMG ($94,900).

Both the CLS550 and CL5550 4Matic are powered by a new 4.6-liter direct-injection twin-turbo V-8 that produces 402 horsepower and 443 pound-feet of torque. Still, the new CLS550 achieves 26 percent better fuel mileage (17 mpg city/26 mpg highway) than the previous model.

The CLS63 AMG features a new 5.5-liter direct-injection twin-turbo V-8 that produces 518 horsepower and 516 pound-feet of torque. An optional AMG performance package increases output to 550 horsepower and 590 pound-feet of torque.

Even with its high performance, the CLS63 AMG is 26 percent more fuel efficient (16 city/25 highway) thanks to an innovative eco stop-start system that turns the engine off at stops and restarts it automatically as soon as the driver releases the brake.

As you might expect, the new CLS looks just as appealing on the inside as it does on the outside. The CLS provides a sporty and luxurious cabin with seating for four.

The only drawback to the new CLS550 is that due to its sloping roofline, there isn’t much headroom for rear passengers. You need to be careful entering and exiting the rear seat or you might bump your noggin.

Up front, though, there’s plenty of room for the driver and front passenger. I find the overall cabin feel is nice mix of leather and wood. I found the driver’s seat to be supportive, yet comfortable. Plus, there’s a massaging feature that’s great when taking long excursions.

I also like the new chrome clock. It looks like a finely made wristwatch. The audio system is quite impressive, too.

A standard harman/kardon Logic 7 digital surround-sound system with Dolby Surround 5.1 uses two 610-watt amplifiers to power 14 speakers and a subwoofer to produce an impressive, luxurious listening experience.

The CLS is loaded with a full list of amenities and innovative safety technologies. I thoroughly enjoyed my 2012 CLS550 tester. Its DiamondWhite finish and optional AMG 18-inch five-spoke wheels immediately caught my attention, as did the large drilled front brake rotors.

The 4.6-liter V-8 in my tester was quite powerful for take-offs and for passing. Going from 0-60 mph takes just 5.1 seconds (5.2 seconds for the CLS550 4Matic). Both the CLS550 and CLS550 4Matic feature a smooth-shifting seven-speed automatic transmission.

However, the CLS63 AMG features a unique seven-speed multiclutch sport transmission that replaces the conventional torque converter. The MCT is designed to deliver faster shift times.

The CLS550 and CLS63 4Matic feature an adaptive air suspension system that delivers a well-mannered comfortable ride with impressive handling attributes when taking corners at speed.

For those considering a new CLS, you likely won’t be disappointed with its looks or its performance. It’s worth the price of admission.

2012 MERCEDES-BENZ CLS550
ENGINE: 402-horsepower 4.6-liter twin-turbocharged V-8
TRANSMISSION: seven-speed automatic
DRIVETRAIN: rear-wheel drive
FUEL ECONOMY: 17 city/26 highway
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Premier
Porsche Dealer

THE EXCHANGE
(847) 266-7000
2300 Skokie Valley Rd.
Highland Park, IL 60035
http://www.4porsche.com
Hours M - Th 9AM - 8PM, Fri 9AM - 6PM, Sa 9AM - 5PM
MULLER HONDA

SHOP ONLINE @ muller-honda.com

0.9% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE!*

2012 HONDA
CIVIC LX SEDAN
Automatic,
Model # FB2F5CEW,
Stk # H27864
 Lease Per 24 Month For mos.
Total due at lease inception $2,850, plus 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2012 HONDA
ODYSSEY EX
Automatic,
Model # RL5H4CEW,
Stk # H28041
 Lease Per 24 Month For mos.
Total due at lease inception $2,000, plus 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2012 HONDA
ACCORD SE SEDAN
Automatic,
Model # GP2F6CENW,
Stk # H27952
 Lease Per 24 Month For mos.
Total due at lease inception $3,475, plus 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2012 HONDA
PILOT AWD LX
Model # YF4H2CEW, Stk # H28310
 Lease Per 24 Month For mos.
Total due at lease inception $4,025, plus 1st payment. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

*Money to be used as down payment or cap cost reduction assistance thru HFS. 0.9% APR Financing for 36 mos. on select years, makes and models. See dealer for details. Based on approved credit to qualified buyers. Based on $17.02 per month per $1000 financed. See dealer for details.

#Based on closed end leases. To qualified buyers with approved credit. 12,000 allowable miles per year, $15 for each additional mile (12 Odyssey and 12 Pilot: $20 for each additional mile). 12 Civic: Residual: $13,129, 12 Accord: Residual: $16,109, 12 Odyssey: Residual: $21,096, 12 Pilot: Residual: $19,251. Additional options extra. Lessee is responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance and insurance. Subject to early termination penalty. Valid three days from publication. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement. Not available with any previous offers.

MULLER HONDA

ExpressService
IN HIGHLAND PARK

Shop On-Line At www.muller-honda.com • 847-831-4200
550 Skokie Valley Road

We Speak - Korean, Russian, Polish and Tagalog
The American dream may have evolved over the years -- after all, many people now would rather spend their disposable income on the newest iPhone than save for that house with the white picket fence -- but regardless of what we want, it still takes money.

Online salary database PayScale.com reviewed Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data to determine the most common jobs in the US (common in that they employ the greatest number of people with the highest earnings potential). We found seven popular, all-American careers whose annual median salaries average at least $11,000 more than the national median salary of $39,500. It's worth noting, too, that not all of these jobs require a four-year degree.

Chase your American dream by checking out these seven common, well-paying jobs:

1. **Registered Nurse**
   
   Median Annual Salary: $61,400
   
   Not a job for the faint of heart, nursing usually involves working with sick patients. Among their many responsibilities, registered nurses run tests and oversee treatments. Nurses spend long hours on their feet and face emotionally charged situations, making this job a challenge. The upside? Helping to improve and save lives.

2. **Certified Public Accountant**
   
   Median Annual Salary: $61,100
   
   If working with numbers is your thing, consider that certified public accountants (or CPAs) can work for themselves or for public accounting firms; both options mean spending your day accounting, auditing and managing taxes for individuals or businesses. A bachelor's degree in accounting is your best bet, though you'll have to pass a licensing exam. CPA prospects are expected to be good.

3. **Auditor**
   
   Median Annual Salary: $59,800
   
   Auditors -- who evaluate a company's finances and check for fraud -- enjoy the same job-growth prospects as CPAs and nearly the same average salary. Also, much like accountants, the hours tend to be long, particularly for the self-employed. Most professionals have at least a bachelor's degree.

4. **Facilities Director**
   
   Median Annual Salary: $57,900
   
   Facilities directors keep an eye on everything related to a property -- supplies, finances, technology, staff and more. Since messy situations can arise during off-hours (think flooding from a broken pipe), facilities directors are often on call. A background in real estate, construction or related field makes this job easier to get and keep.

5. **Operations Manager**
   
   Median Annual Salary: $57,200
   
   With such a broad range of responsibilities -- essentially overseeing daily business functions -- an operations manager has a lot on her plate. Heather Landaker, an operations manager at Autonet Mobile in California since 2008, says the job "encompasses all aspects of a business: sales, customer service, support, facilities, marketing, systems analysis and more." Though Landaker has a bachelor's degree, it's not a requirement for the job.

6. **Payroll Manager**
   
   Median Annual Salary: $51,000
   
   Payroll managers deal with tax reporting, benefits and the payroll systems of a business. Previous payroll experience is important, as is a bachelor's degree in business, accounting or similar discipline.

7. **Automotive Retail Salesperson**
   
   Median Annual Salary: $50,900
   
   Retail sales is the most common job family in the US, and auto sales has the highest average salary of these positions, says Katie Bardaro, lead analyst at PayScale. Therefore, "if you want to find a retail job and earn a good wage, go into automotive sales rather than other types of retail sales," she says. A high school diploma is almost always necessary, according to the BLS, and most dealers prefer prior sales experience.

Source: All salary data provided by online salary database PayScale.com. Salaries listed are median, annual salaries for full-time workers with five to eight years of experience and include all bonuses, commissions or profit sharing.

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### Healthcare & Nursing

#### SEVEN TOP-PAYING, ALL-AMERICAN JOBS

**By Chelsea Lin, PayScale.com**

The above content is a preview of a larger article. For the full article, visit PayScale.com. The article includes salary data and descriptions for seven top-paying jobs in healthcare and nursing. It also provides information on education requirements, job responsibilities, and potential career paths within these fields. For more details, visit the source link provided.

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### Healthcare & Nursing Events Calendar

**July 2**

**UIC University of Illinois at Chicago**

**Chicago, IL**

UIC Prospective Information Session & Tour: 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM. Prospective UIC students and their parents are encouraged to register to attend this session and campus tour to learn about UIC academic programs, opportunities, admission procedures, financial aid, housing, campus life and to have any questions you may have answered. The information session is followed by a housing tour and a student-led walking tour of UIC’s campus. Reservations are required: http://www.admissions.uic.edu/visit. Location: UIC Visitor Center, SCL Student Center East, SSEC Student Center East. Contact: Admissions, 312-996-4350.

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### NURSING FACULTY - FT

**Peoria, Illinois**

Position available Fall 2012 in the accredited graduate Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program. Master's degree in Nursing with focus Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and experience in psychiatric mental health nursing required. Excellent benefits. Contact Dr. Jan Boundy at 309-655-2230, Janice.F.Boundary@osfhealthcare.org. Apply online at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center Human Resources.

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### CAMBRIDGE NURSING AND REHAB CENTER

Due to expanding services and programs, we are now accepting applications for:

- **RN/LPN**
- **CNA**
- **Restorative Nurse**

Fax resume or apply in person:

- 9415 N. Knox Ave., Sickle, IL 60076
- 847-679-3241 (fax)

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Thursday, July 5, 2012

Pioneer Press (DC) 19
NURSING FACULTY – FT
Peoria, Illinois
Position available fall 2012 in the accredited graduate family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program. Master’s degree in Nursing with focus Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and experience in psychiatric mental health nursing required. Excellent benefits. Contact Dr. Jan Bondy at 309-655-2230 or Janice.f.boundy@osfhealthcare.org

APPLY ONLINE at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center Human Resources

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Assistant Manager

We are looking for a Manager who loves the food service business. You must have at least 4 years of experience in food service management and leadership. You will be in charge of all day-to-day operations while supervising a team of kitchen staff and front of house employees. If you are looking for an exciting challenge and a place to grow your career, please apply. You must have excellent communication and people management skills. A degree in business or related field is preferred but not required. This position is full-time with some weekend availability.

All candidates must be legal U.S. citizens.

To apply, please visit careers.osfnorthill.org and enter position number 50594.

SUN-TIMES MEDIA
Page Layout/Output Paginater

Page Layout/Output Paginater must have experience in pre-press and page layout. Knowledge of PageMaker, QuarkXPress, and InDesign is preferred. Hands-on experience with operating computer-aided layout and page-process software and working knowledge of DTP (PageMaker) tool is preferred. Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills and work effectively under deadlines. Degree in Journalism, Communications, or a related field preferred. Complete coursework in Mac and PC applications is helpful.

Job Duties:

- Coordinate page specifications and space requests with the Advertising and Editorial Departments.
- Assemble product to specifications utilizing both hardcopy and electronic page layouts.
- Layout proprietary product to specifications utilizing both hardcopy and electronic page layouts.
- Communicate product specifications to production, including changes and cancellations.
- Ensure quality product with meticulous review. Research and resolve issues or errors before transmission. Ensure all information is readable and legible.
- Ensure all product specifications are met.
- Produce binders for production department.
- Perform additional trouble-shooting to ensure product completion.
- Other duties as assigned.

Sun Times Media

Attn: Human Resources – Page Layout/Output Paginater

3791 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, Illinois 60025

Fax: 847-486-6894

Email address: hr-suntimes.com

Please note Page Layout/Output Paginater in subject line

Sun Times Media is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Senior Manager of Customer Acquisition and Retention

Seeking an individual with marketing experience (8 years minimum) to lead the growth of consumer traffic and sales for the Acura Brand, Highland Park and Naperville Sun print and digital publications and corresponding websites.

Candidates must have experience in the areas of consumer marketing, customer acquisition and customer retention, responsibilities in sales planning, marketing program development and execution, market management, pricing strategy and marketing analysis.

Candidates should have excellent written, verbal and interpersonal skills and be a motivated self-starter with the ability to lead, motivate teams and manage several projects at a time. College degree in Marketing, Communications, Business Administration, or related field desired. The position is based in our Naperville, Illinois office.

Sun-Times Media is dedicated to being the premier source of local news, information and entertainment for its readers and corresponding websites.

Education Ads

May 17, 2012

UPGRADE TO ORANGE!

Schneider National is Hiring Drivers Throughout Illinois and Indiana

Intermodal, Tanker, Regional and Over-the-Road Opportunities

Experienced drivers and recent driving school graduates should apply (Up to a $6,000 tuition reimbursement may be available)

$4,000 SIGN-ON BONUS

May be available for Intermodal Drivers. Ask your recruiter for details.

JOB SEMINAR

July 16 | 6 p.m.
Schneider National
7101 W. 17th Ave. | Gary
Call John at 219-252-4306 for Info

Apply online at schneiderjobs.com/newjobs
The balance, including the Judicial funds at the close of the auction.

MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION, AS TRUSTEE FOR J.P.

2010, at the The Judicial Sales

PRICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pur-

Also, Lakefront lot. 847-823-0808

REAL ESTATE AUCTIONS

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MORGAN MORTGAGE

GROVE, IL 60089

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NOTICE OF SALE

The property is situated at 7025 N Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois 60622. The mortgagee, [Name], holds a mortgage on this property. The sale is subject to the condition of the property. The property will be sold in "AS IS" condition, unless otherwise stated in the Notice of Sale. The property is offered for sale without any representations or warranties, including without limitation, any warranty of condition, and the purchaser assumes all risks associated with the purchase.

The sale will be held on [Date], at [Time], at the location specified in the Notice of Sale. The property will be sold to the highest bidder subject to confirmation by the Court. The minimum bid required is [Minimum Bid].

For more information, contact [Name] at [Phone Number].

ATTORNEY CODE: [Code]
CASE: [Case Number]
TOLL FREE: [Toll Free Number]
PHONE: [Phone Number]
FAX: [Fax Number]
EMAIL: [Email Address]
WEB: [Website Address]

ATTORNEY: [Name]
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CITY: [City]
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Find your new car at...

todore.com

search for new and used cars

- Shop by monthly payment
- Search by mileage
- Browse hot vehicle categories

You’ve never searched for cars like this before.
Visit ToDrive.com today to take it for a spin.
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The sale is further subject to confirmation of the sale. The property is subject to a mortgage by the seller. The mortgage was recorded on May 9, 2012, in the Recorder of Deeds Office. The mortgage is secured by the mortgaged premises, which is commonly known as 8230 CENTRAL AVENUE, HARWOOD HEIGHTS, IL 60706.

For further information, contact the Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tlsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. You can also visit the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of the County of Cook, Illinois, 60606, 60606-4650 (312) 236-0770.

LEGAL

Adoption
Assumed Name
Auction- Real Estate
Bid Notice
Foreclosures
Foundation Notices
Judicial Sales
Mechanics Liens
Name Change
Probate
Public Hearings
Public Notices
Storage - Legal
Take Notices

Assumed Name
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Act in relation to the conduct or transaction of business in the State, as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D11323064 on June 9, 2011, under the Assumed Name of Pioneer Press (DC) Properties, LLC, 5540 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625.

Pioneer Press (DC) Properties, LLC, 5540 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625.

Assumed Name
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Act in relation to the conduct or transaction of business in the State, as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D11323064 on June 9, 2011, under the Assumed Name of Pioneer Press (DC) Properties, LLC, 5540 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625.

Pioneer Press (DC) Properties, LLC, 5540 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625.

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD, CALL 847-998-3400 OR VISIT PIONEER PRESS.COM/CLASSIFIEDS
Notice is hereby given by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton Grove, Cook County, Illinois, that a public hearing will be held at 7:30 P.M., on the 5th day of July, 2012, at the Public Works Department, 7840 Nagle Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60634, for the purpose of considering the matter of an amendment to the tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013.

The tentative budget for the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton Grove, in the amount of 342564.00/100 dollars, is for the 2010 VALVE REPLACE program.

NOTICE is hereby given by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton Grove, Cook County, Illinois, that a public hearing will be held at 7:30 P.M., on the 5th day of July, 2012, at the Public Works Department, 7840 Nagle Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60634, for the purpose of considering the matter of an amendment to the tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013.

The tentative budget for the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton Grove, in the amount of 342564.00/100 dollars, is for the 2010 VALVE REPLACE program.

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The tentative budget for the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton Grove, in the amount of 342564.00/100 dollars, is for the 2010 VALVE REPLACE program.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Extra Space Storage facility will sell at public auction on Thursday, June 5, 2012, at 12:30 PM, on the premises of the facility located at 1225 S. Washtenaw Ave., Chicago, IL 60607, personal property described as follows:

**PERSONAL PROPERTY**

- 1164 Renato Shaana
- Commercial Sink & Chairs
- Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of purchase. All goods sold are subject to prior settlement of account. Payment must be made by cash only and paid at the time of purchase. All goods sold are subject to prior settlement of account.

Payment due immediately upon acceptance of bid. Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account. All goods sold are subject to prior settlement of account. Payment must be made by cash only and paid at the time of purchase. All goods sold are subject to prior settlement of account.

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3 After $100 delivery mail-in rebate. Rebate will be a $100 prepaid card. See store for details.

Offers effective July 6 - 7, 2012

Savings calculated based on SPP (Suggested retail price).
SUBURBODDITY

Muffled mochachinos for the drive-thru lane

Free of charge, we offer tales of stupid criminals, strange crimes, odd news and otherwise silly stories from around the area.

Rug rat road rage

GLENCOE, JUNE 13 - A Glencoe Public Works employee reported children, age 3 to 6, were selling lemonade on the corner of Old Green Bay Road and Mary Street, and throwing the empty cups at passing cars.

Dazed and confused

MORTON GROVE, JUNE 9 - A Morton Grove Police commander, attending a barbecue on the 5800 block of Capullina Avenue with his family, noticed the scent of marijuana drifting over the fence. He looked next door, and saw two smoking teenagers, one of them a 19-year-old local youth who in May reported to police the burglary of a bag of marijuana from his house. That young man now refused to discuss the subject of marijuana. He was charged with resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. His pal went free.

Cookie monster

BUFFALO GROVE, JUNE 7 - A former Meridian School student returned to her alma mater to give teachers homemade cookies in appreciation. After making the delivery, she still had cookies left over, and offered them to people she passed as she walked home. Someone found this suspicious and called the police. They declined to arrest her.

A crime, on paper

BUFFALO GROVE, JUNE 9 - Baristas at Starbucks, 1665 Buffalo Grove Road, were concerned that the sound coming from the menu board in their drive-through lane was muffled. They walked outside to see a paper house-for-sale ad taped over the speaker. They pulled it off, only to find another one in the same place the following day.

They could think of no response other than summoning the police. An ace investigator arrived, and called the phone number on the ad.

"The resident stated that he hired a kid to post the signs," the officer reported, adding that the homeowner promised to "tell him not to do so again at the Starbucks."

Maybe the gondola is still crossing the Atlantic

NORTHLAKE, MAY 21 - A West Golfview Drive resident told police he wired a $1,300 down-payment on an unnamed vehicle advertised online. Nothing further was heard from the seller, who listed his address in Venice, Italy.

Inch worm

NILES, JUNE 5 - A Niles woman, 84, reported that a man in his 60s rang her doorbell at her home on the 8400 block of Betty Terrace. She said he had been sent by an insurance agent to measure the rooms in her house. Come back later, she said, when my husband will be home. He lowered his head and walked away. The spouse, upon return, called his insurance agent, who told him the company never sends people to measure clients' homes.

The nasty emails don't seem so bad anymore

NILES, JUNE 4 - A Niles man, 83, filed a harassment-by-electronic-means complaint against his ex-girlfriend on June 4. June, he reported that there were many scratches on one side of his 2008 Hummer.

Leave the change. Throw the canoli

OAK PARK, JUNE 5 - A Forest Park woman, enraged that a Chipotle cashier dropped her change on the counter, responded with a punch. At some point during the incident, the lady also threw food at the cashier. Police asked the employee, and busted the customer, 27.

It works better when the car is moving, sir

SKOKIE, JUNE 9 - After curbing a car, police reported watching one of the passengers, pick a marijuana blunt off a seat and hurl it out the window. A cop then walked over and picked it up and put it in an evidence bag. The passenger, 24, was charged with possession of marijuana and littering.

Rushing the fly-dumping season

BUFFALO GROVE, JUNE 8 - Someone dumped various items, including a Christmas tree, instructions manual and extra cords, on a resident's driveway.

A jerk, a whine, a loafer's brick, and thou beside me, stripping in bitterness

NILES, JUNE 9 - A Clifton Avenue man, 19, arrested for violating an order of protection after he had hung around outside a home in the 8800 block of Grand Street brandishing a brick and yelling at a resident. A man, 26, came out to discuss the matter. He told police that after a shouting match, the guy took off all his clothes and ran away.

maybe, the gondola is still crossing the Atlantic

CLARENDON HILLS, JUNE 5 - A lawn on the 200 block of Ann Street was burned by grass killer in the form of obscene epithets.

A guy named Joe

WILMETTE, JUNE 8 - A woman working in a home in the 2800 block of Sprucewood Avenue answered the door to man who said the homeowner had spoken to him several years earlier about doing chimney repairs. She asked him for a business card. He gave her a flier with a phone number for "Joe" instead. She looked in the street, and saw something odd; why, she asked, didn't his truck have license plates? He said he'd just bought it. He looked nervous as he left, she said. When she tried to call the number on the business card, voice-mail indicated a person named other than Joe.

Unclear on the concept

BUFFALO GROVE, MAY 31 - A man left his wallet in a backpack, and left the backpack on his bicycle. The backpack was stolen. The thief found the man's debit card, and the piece of paper on which he had written the card's PIN number. Then he emptied the account. The victim's bank refused to refund him the money.

A soul-mate for the guy with the bike backpack

WILMETTE, JUNE 8 - A Glenview woman removed more than $10,000 worth of jewelry out of her safe-deposit box, left it on the floor of her car while she was shopping in Edens Plaza. She said she thought she locked the doors, but she wasn't sure. It wasn't until two days later that she noticed that there was no jewelry in the car anymore.

Siri's cries for help go unheard

GLENCOE, JUNE 14 - A caddy at Lake Shore Country Club, 1255 Sheridan Road, reported falling asleep June 14 with his smart phone on his lap. The $499 device was gone when he awakened an hour later.

We know a caddy you might like

VERNON HILLS, JUNE 10 - A Lake Bluff man, 23, was charged with trespassing at White Deer Run Golf Club, 250 W. Greggs Parkway. He had been sleeping on the course.

Old enough to throw better

LAKE FOREST, JUNE 6 - Two girls, 18 and 17, were charged with disorderly conduct when they allegedly threw water balloons at car in the 500 block of South Green Bay Road, which caused the driver to lose control, almost crashing.

There's still one golden ticket out there

VERNON HILLS, MAY 30 - A teacher at Hawthorn Middle School, 201 W. Hawthorne Parkway, apparently called police after a boy, 12, swiped candy from his desk, or her desk, reports say. The kid was charged with theft in a juvenile petition.

Sweet arrest

RIVER FOREST, JUNE 9 - Store security at Dominick's, 7601 North Ave., called the police on a boy who stole four candy bars, but they wouldn't press charges. He gave police several fake names, but was eventually identified as a 15-year-old wanted for robbery, armed robbery, aggravated battery and theft. He was turned over to the county juvenile detention center.

Another sweet arrest

OAK PARK, JUNE 5 - A Chicago boy, 17, was arrested and charged with retail theft after he stole 17 candy bars worth $44.98 from Dominick's, 259 Lake St. Off he went to the detention center after a name check turned up a warrant for possession of a controlled substance.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60025. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or emailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern
The Center of Concern: 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:

- Mondays, through July 30: Employment counseling, by appointment.
- Monday, July 9: Alzheimer's caregivers support group, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, July 17: Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
- Wednesdays, July 11 through 25: Grief and loss support groups (call first).
- Saturdays, July 14 and 28: Legal counseling, by appointment.
- Saturday, July 28: Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

Classes
Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc.: Offering “Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy,” dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is $60. Contact Dorida King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

Clubs
Sweet Singers: Congregations of a traditional Supreme Singers entertain at nursing homes, retirement facilities and charitable organizations, meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Rosenberg Auditorium of the Ezra's Israel, 7001 N. California Ave., Chicago. Those who enjoy singing are welcome to join. Call the Ezra's Israel office at (773) 764-8320.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712: Meet at 7 p.m., every second Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7680 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis in Niles on How ard Street). The post is open also on Fridays 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from

Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernard Beverley, (847) 966-5479, e-mail jamesbond5476@yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890.

Korean War Veterans Association: Greater Chicago Chapter No. 25, meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Montclare-Leyden FV Post, 6940 W. Diversey Ave. Call Joe Henmueller, (773) 774-9671.

The Knights of Columbus: North American Martyrs Council Chapter, Niles, provides ways for members to help others in the community while trying to improve their family and spiritual lives. Call Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920.

Niles Chapter Toastmasters: Meets at 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove, 6160 Lincoln Ave. Members learn how to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 538-9322.

Community

Greek Food Fest: Holy Taxiarchal and St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church presents the Greek Food Fest July 20 to 22 on the church grounds at 7373 Caldwell Ave. in Niles. Hours are 5 p.m.-midnight Friday, 3 p.m.-midnight Saturday and Sunday. Foods will include bbq lamb roasting on an open spit, homemade pastitsio, moussaka, tyropita, or spanakopita, loukoumathes. Then attend one of the Greek cooking demonstrations held each night. View films of the historic Acropolis and the moody-watering authentic Greek souvlaki is on the grill at the Big Fat Greek Food Fest of Niles returning July 20 to 22.

Scenic Grecian Isles. Also each night, enjoy live Greek music and an authentic Greek dance troupe. Parents and children are invited to the "Kid's Korner" for face painting, crafts, a clown balloon artist, games and more. Fest-goers may also enter the church and see the hand-carved woodwork and classic Byzantine iconography. Guided tours of the church are available offering an explanation of its architectural history. Admission is $2 for adults, $1 for senior citizens; children are free. There is plenty of free parking and a complimentary sip of wine at the gate. Call (847) 647-8880.

Community Day: Join the Niles Presbyterian Church, 7401 W. Oakton St., in a day of mission and music from noon-5 p.m. July 21. Enjoy the music of local church choirs and worship teams. Bring donations of food -- canned goods -- for the New Hope Community Food Pantry; clothes for the WINGS shelter; and books for Open Books in Chicago. Join in the assembly line of kits, which will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Shop at the Ten Thousand Village booths for fair-trade crafts made by artisans from around the world. Food, raffle, prizes and children's activities are planned. Call (847) 967-6921.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center: 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie; information: (847) 967-4800; reservations: (847) 967-4889, www.ilholocaustmuseum.org. Museum admission prices: General Admission, $12; seniors (65+), $10; students (ages 12-22), $8; children (ages 5-11), $6. Reservations required for programs. July 8: Sarah Lazarus Memorial

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 29
Elkhart Lake is a fun and relaxing escape. It is nearby – yet feels far away – less than 3 hours north of Chicago.

Elkhart Lake’s premiere, lakeside accommodations, world-class Aspira Spa and exceptional cuisine won’t disappoint. It is fast becoming known as a culinary destination. Award-winning culinary teams create seasonal menus based on fresh ingredients obtained from local farmers and purveyors at the downtown farmers market or from their own gardens. For a unique wine experience, visit Wine Spectator Award winners Paddock Club of Elkhart Lake and Lake Street Café, which boasts the third largest wine list in Wisconsin.

Chefs at Lola’s on the Lake, Otto’s Restaurant and the Lake Deck – all at The Osthoff Resort – base their menus on vegetables and herbs grown in the Osthoff’s own organic gardens, carefully tended to by a special “Green Team” of gardeners, who grow herbs, greens and lettuces, heirloom tomatoes and a host of other vegetables for fresh, natural and healthful dining. Lola’s on the Lake also features menu items using locally raised, organic beef and pork from growers just minutes away.

Victorian Village Resort serves lunch and dinner at Back Porch Bistro and Barefoot Tiki Bar. A fun atmosphere and exceptional views of the lake are available every day with live music on weekends. The famous Stop-Inn Tavern at Siebkens Resort is a hot spot on the racing circuit with great food, cocktails and live entertainment on Wednesday nights.

The delight does not stop with dinner. Immerse yourself in the crystal-clear, spring-fed water that made Elkhart Lake famous. Boating, golfing, cooking classes and spa treatments are all within walking distance of resorts and B&Bs.

Take some time to dine, stay and play in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.
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www.osthoff.com
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Victorian Village Resort
www.vicvill.com
276 Victorian Village Drive
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
1-877-860-9988
Awarded Three Diamonds by AAA, Victorian Village Resort offers condominium suites and hotel rooms on 600 feet of sandy beachfront. Watersports, lakeside dining and tiki bar with live music on weekends all summer long.

Siebkens Resort
www.siebkens.com
284 S. Lake Street
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
1-920-876-2600
A landmark, turn-of-the-century resort with newly constructed condominium building and additional guest rooms, Siebkens offers dining and live music, private beach and outdoor pool.

Road America
www.roadamerica.com
N7390 Hwy 67
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1-800-365-7223
America's National Park of Speed! Road America offers year-round motorsports in a gorgeous natural setting. World-class racing on its legendary 4-mile road circuit and Short-track Motorplex for karting and supermoto.

Quit Qui Oc Golf Course
www.quitquioc.com
500 Quit Qui Oc Lane
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
1-920-876-2833
Quit Qui Oc's 27-hole golf course in the rolling terrain of Kettle Moraine gives golfers a great game of golf, friendly service, spectacular views and fun for all ages. Family owned and operated for more than 50 years, QQO offers a learning and practice facility, Pro shop, lessons and dining.

Lola's on the Lake
www.osthoff.com
At Lake and East Streets
Embracing an organic, holistic approach to the spa experience, Aspira offers treatments that embody the ancient healing wisdom of indigenous peoples the world over. With 22 spacious treatment rooms, the spa offers massage, hydrotherapy, chromatherapy, balneotherapy, facials, manicures, pedicures and salon services, and exclusive SpaSuite™ Experiences. Aspira Spa provides the ultimate experience in relaxation and rejuvenation for a few hours or the whole day.

Elkhart Lake Chamber Vacation Rentals
www.elkhartlake.com/elkhartlake-chamber-of-commerce/accommodationscampgrounds/41 E. Rhine Street
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
1-877-355-3554
Vacation home rentals offer a variety of comfortable accommodations for an individual, entire family, or race team. For detailed information about a variety of vacation and race date rentals including entire homes, condos, cottages, or rooms, contact the Elkhart Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.
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CONTACT: kdoyle@highschoolcube.com
Concert — the Lori Cahen-Sa-non Ensemble performing the music of Mikhai Gelbart, 1:30-3 p.m. Tickets: $10, general; free to Illinois Holocaust Museum members. Advance reservations July 15 to Jan. 6, 2013; Special exhibition, "Spies, Spies, Spies: Fear and Freedom in America," a exhibition of the International Spy Museum, explores this vital question through video, film, interactive displays and artifacts, offering an unprecedented perspective into the stories of espionage, treason, and deception that Americans have contended with since the founding days of the Republic. Opening day, July 15, features talk with Anna Slafer, director and Executive Director of the International Spy Museum. Free admission.

July 19: Lecture: "Finding Justice" featuring Eli Rosenbaum, the longest-serving prosecutor and Investigator of Nazi criminals, and those perpetrators of human rights violations, 5:30-9 p.m. Free with museum admission. July 26: Lecture: "The Future of International Justice" — Leader author an Holocaust at, University of Pennsylvania Law School Professor Harry J. Michaelson will discuss additions to the international legal system, in relation to genocide and crimes against humanity, 6:30-8 p.m. Free with museum admission.

Solid Waste Agency: Northern Cook County, recently established a Battery Recycling Program for rechargeable and alkaline batteries, partnered with Interstate Batteries in Skokie to provide recycling at no cost to SWANCC communities. Common household batteries are no longer accepted at Illinois EPA-sponsored household waste events and facilities due to their benign nature and high recycling costs. Batteries accepted in SWANCC’s program: Alkaline (AAA, AA, D and 9V) and rechargeable (NiCd, NiMH, lithium ion, lithium polymer). Before dropping off rechargeable batteries, residents need to tape the contact points on each battery or place in an individual self-locking plastic bag to avoid sparking. Local drop-off sites include:

- Niles Public Service Department, 5849 Touhy Ave., (847) 588-7900. 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; Niles Village Hall, 100 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-6000. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; Park Ridge Public Works, 400 Busse Highway, (847) 318-5240. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Additional drop-off sites are posted at swancc.org/recycling/batteryrecycling.html.

Threshold Singers: Any women interested in joining the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Threshold Singers can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900. Practices are held on two Thursdays each month starting at 6:45 p.m. in Park Ridge. Threshold Singers are trained to sing in groups of two and three at the bedside of those who are sick and dying. The songs are generally traditional or simple rounds, chants, lullabies and hymns that can be chosen to respond to emotional, taste and spiritual direction. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

Avenues Thrift Shoppe: Offers great prices and specials on gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60 years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items. The main shop is located at 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago, and the "bouquet" shop at 7700 Touhy Ave. features upscale clothing, outerwear, collectibles and fine merchandise. H ours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Donations are accepted 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing; broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

Fundraisers

Benefit Concert: Friends of Buddy Charles Gries will give another benefit concert for St. Isaac Jogues Parish in tribute to the late legendary piano man. "An Afternoon at the Theater" will be held at 3 p.m. July 15 in the Holy Family Room at St. Isaac Jogues Parish, 8101 Golf Road. Music will be performed by Audrey Morris, Frank Darone, Anne and Mark Burnell, Bob Moreen, Jeanne Scherkenbach, Ernie Lane, Steve Helotes, Bob Solone, Joel Barry, Scott Urban, Pat Gries (Mrs. Buddy Charles) and a surprise guest. Tickets are $20 and on sale at the rectory, the religious education office and the doors when they open that afternoon at 2 p.m.
Avocados get a green light

BY CAROL GODDARD
Contributor

Back in the low-fat diet day, avocados, with their dense fat content, stayed on the forbidden list.

Ah, but times have changed.

Today we know that while avocados contain a relatively high amount of fat, about 90 percent, that fat is monounsaturated, the good kind. Avocados also contain minerals including potassium, manganese, magnesium, phosphorous, iron and 14 vitamins (especially vitamins C and K). They are also a good source of antioxidants and have little sugar or starch.

That’s good news, but here is an even better reason to eat avocados. Researchers at The Ohio State University found that when volunteers ate avocado with raw vegetables, more of the nutrients in those foods were absorbed in the body.

Very absorbing

In her podcast “The Nutrition Diva,” Monica Reinagel said you get more nutrition from raw vegetables if you eat them with a little fat such as found in an avocado. “These nutrients (the vitamins and minerals in vegetables) don’t contain any fat themselves. But in order to be absorbed into your cells, where they can do you some good, they need to hitch a ride on a fat molecule.”

When researchers (in the Ohio State study) added avocado to a salad, the subjects absorbed up to 15 times more fat-soluble nutrients than those who ate the plain salad.

In other words, eating some guacamole with your raw veggies or slicing an avocado into a salad increases the body’s ability to absorb the good stuff in those foods.

Hass avocado

Most of the avocados sold today are the Hass variety (often mistakenly spelled Haas) that was developed in California in the 1930s. The dense, rich, creamy texture of these avocados is perfect for guacamole or blending in soups or salad dressings.

Many folks steer away from avocados because of the ripening dilemma — how soon an avocado should be purchased to be ready to use when needed. But avocados easily ripen in a day or two at room temperature. They overripen quickly but can be held in the refrigerator for a couple of days with no decrease in flavor.

A ripe avocado will yield slightly to pressure. Hass avocados signal they’re ready to eat by turning a dark green to black. Once cut, however, avocados stop the ripening process.

To open an avocado, run your knife around the outside lengthwise cutting to the pit and then rotate both halves to open.

Remove the pit by carefully hitting it with the blade of your knife, then twist both halves. Use a wooden spoon to remove the pit from the knife.

The meat of the avocado can either be scooped out with a spoon or scored with a knife in a crosshatch pattern to the skin to create chunks.

Serve guacamole with chips and, of course, raw vegetables.

Guacamole

Of course the ultimate way to enjoy an avocado is in guacamole. Making a signature guacamole is easy and worth the effort. Start with two or three ripe avocados and mash them part of the way, keeping about a half or more in chunks.

Add the juice of a lime (maybe the zest too, if you like a citrus bite) then include some aromatics like chopped onion (for crunch) or shallot (for more muted flavor) and garlic (roasted garlic is great if you didn’t get the clove gene) and salt to taste.

At this point, you could serve the guacamole, but by adding other ingredients such as chopped tomato, salsa, roasted corn, jalapeño, pine nuts, fennel, curry or even sweet pickle relish, you can make a signature guacamole. Alternately, you could put some of these last ingredients in small dishes and let guests customize your guacamole to their taste.

Spicy Cucumber-Avocado Soup

This simple recipe takes advantage of an avocado’s natural creaminess and pairs it with a little sugar or starch. It is adapted from one that appeared in Gourmet magazine in July 2000.

1 ripe avocado
1 English cucumber, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
1 8-ounce container plain Greek-style yogurt, low fat optional
3 tablespoons chopped chives

1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
1 teaspoon salt or to taste
1/2 to 1 jalapeño chili with seeds
1 cup small ice cubes

Peel and pit the avocado. Put all ingredients in a blender and blend until very smooth, about one minute.

Garnish with diced avocado and chopped chives.

Avocado facts

- Avocados originated in Mexico thousands of years ago. Domesticated avocados were found in Incan tombs dating back to 750 B.C.
- Spanish explorers were unable to pronounce the Aztec word for avacate which changed it to aguacate which became avocado in English.
- Rudolph Hass, a postman and amateur botanist, discovered the Hass avocado in California and patented it in 1935. It accounts for about 90 percent of the avocados sold today. The original tree died in 2002 at age 76 from root rot.
- It takes an avocado 12 months to mature, but it doesn’t start to soften until picked. A picked avocado will ripen in about a week.
- More than 70 million pounds of avocados were eaten on Super Bowl Sunday, the big day of the year for guacamole consumption.
- Like the tomato, the avocado is really a fruit, the berry of an evergreen tree. A single tree can yield anywhere from 100 to 600 fruits a year. Although the growing season used to be early winter through spring, today avocados are grown year round.
- The seeds can easily be used to grow a houseplant. For directions, visit www.avocado.org/grow-your-own-tree.
Where do you think we go for local information?

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Kosinski
50th Wedding Anniversary

Jack and Virg (Gina) Kosinski of Shorewood, IL, formerly of La Grange Park, were married on July 7, 1962 at St. Dionysius Church, in Cicero, IL. They will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary by renewing their vows at Holy Family Church in Shorewood, IL, which will be witnessed by their family. They are the proud parents of their four children: Antonette (Jeff) Gurke, Jackie Kosinski-Torres, Joe Kosinski and John (Belinda) Kosinski. And are blessed with their six grandchildren: Kyle and Matthew Gurke, Stephanie and Olivia Torres, Collette & Callista Kosinski.

Everyone in our family would like to congratulate them on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. We love you!!! Xoxo

Tina Diaz of Homer Glen and Marc Acerra of Carpentersville former alumni of Barrington High School wish to announce their engagement to all their relations and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Stranges
60th Anniversary

Bernie and Theresa (Vittl) Stranges of Elmwood Park celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 31, 2012. The couple was married in 1952 at St. Celestine Church in Elmwood Park and are still active members of the parish. Bernie and Theresa have four children, Donna Falbo (Al) of River Grove, Bob Stranges (Laura) of McKinney, Susanne Reese (Matt) of Bloomingdale, and John Stranges (Angie) of Elmwood Park. They have twelve grandchildren and one great grandchild.

MILLER
60TH ANNIVERSARY

Willie Miller Sr. and Mary Miller of Evanston, IL will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 12, 2012. Celebrating with them on a cruise to the Caribbean will be their son, Willie Jr., daughter-in-law, Teel and grandchildren Alyson, Lindsay and Brenden.
fors free gifts for completed reading achievements. The program boasts a popular teen attraction for ages 12-18. For every reading log received and returned complete, they will receive a to-go cold cup with a built-in straw. The cup will contain a voucher redeemable at the mall for a free admission and Xtreme Bugs exhibit pass. Teens will be eligible for the weekly restaurant giveaways and a drawing at the end of the summer for a grand prize—an Apple iPod touch.

Residents can recycle: Cell phones, certain ink toners and used eye glasses at the Niles Public Library. Drop-off boxes are located in the Circulation lobby.

Help downloading eBooks: Go to www.nileslibrary.org/contactus and click on eBook Help or click on the Overdrive Download link on the home page to find step-by-step instruction sheets for different eBooks. As well as how to get started on My Media Mall. My Media Mall titles are now available for the Amazon Kindle.

Book Buddies: Students entering eighth grade in the fall and adults can become Book Buddies. Buddies read or listen to children read once a week for an hour. The Niles Public Library provides all materials and training.

Niles Public Library: Open on Sundays from 1-5 p.m. all year.

Chicago Chapter of SCORE: Weekly, counselors from SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, will be at the library to help small business owners and anyone considering starting a small business. SCORE counselors are successful executives and business owners who can help with a wide variety of business issues. These experienced businesspeople offer private one-hour sessions of business coaching. SCORE is a nonprofit association of volunteers. Weekly sessions are held on alternating Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Sessions are free but an appointment is required. To set up an appointment online, visit the counseling page at www.scorechicago.org. If there are questions, call (312) 355-7724 or e-mail info@scorechicago.org.

Youth programs: On a drop-in basis — Baby time: 11 a.m. on Mondays, for babies age 2 and under. Continuous year-round drop-in program for children with an adult. Includes stories, songs, finger plays and extended playtime afterward. Rise & Shine Story Time: 10 a.m. on Thursdays, ages 2-6 with caregiver; enjoy stories, songs and more.

**Maine Township**

Maine Township’s FISH: Friends Indeed Serve and Help Is in need of volunteer drivers to provide residents free transportation to medical facilities in and near Maine Township. Volunteers may choose how much time they wish to devote. Requirements include a current drivers license and proof of auto insurance. The program requires residents in need to be mobile, or able to use a cane or walker. FISH also asks that appointments be set three or more days in advance. To become a volunteer driver call Ed Oken at (847) 966-0761. To schedule a ride or for information call FISH coordinator Gloria Stepek at (847) 297-2510, Ext. 283.

**Parks**

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation: Offers people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities. MAAS serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with special needs by volunteering, call (847) 966-5522.

Niles Park District: Offering private piano lessons (30-45 minutes) for beginning and intermediate students Wednesdays and Thursdays at Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Lessons will focus on the fundamentals of technique, music theory and good practice habits. Call (847) 967-6633 to reserve a lesson time.

**Golf Maine**

Golf Maine Park District: Offers a selection of Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale to the public from a Lights for Learning kiosk. Proceeds from the sale of every bulb will directly fund the scholarship program sponsored by the district. The scholarship program allows children the opportunity to attend camp when they may not have the resources to do so on their own. The kiosk will also house the Lights for Learning teacher tool kits, designed for educators and organization leaders, to provide informational materials on the overall Lights for Learning program. Enery Star Activity Books for children, as well as Energy Star home energy-conservation and electronics information, will also be available. A recycling bin for used CFLs will also be available. CFLs may be purchased at Feldman Park, 8800 Kathy Lane, Niles, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Call (847) 297-3000.

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Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM

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9000 Kildare Ave., Skokie
847-676-1300
www.STTimothySkokie.org
Worship: Sundays at 10 AM

Congregation Bene Shalom
4435 Oakton, Skokie
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St. Paul Lutheran Church
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(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
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Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 5PM
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Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship 5:30PM
Sunday Worship 10:30AM
Holy Communion Weekly
Pastors: Barbara Berry-Bailey
and Jeffery King

NORTHELF
Willow Creek
Community Church
North Shore Campus
315 Waukegan Rd.
847-441-6599
Sunday Services: 9 & 11 am
Promised (Infants-Gr9): 9 & 11 am
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For more information visit
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CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Western Avenue and Kathy Lane. Products that can be recycled in this container include: newspapers, magazines, office paper (fax and copy), shopping catalogs, mail and envelopes, catalogs, folders, colored paper and shredded paper (bagged); no cardboard or phone books. All money raised will fund the scholarship program, allowing children to attend summer camp and other programs.

Call (847) 297-3000 or go to www.paperretriever.com.

Religion

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church: 8201 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie, will hold Adult Christian Education classes following 10 a.m. Sunday services. Classes will be held on a variety of topics. A Fellowship Hour follows the 10 a.m. service each week with “Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch” the first Sunday of each month. Call the church at (847) 673-1434.

Messiah Lutheran Church: 1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge, holds a Christian education hour at 9 a.m. each Sunday, with worship service at 10:35 a.m. During the hour, Sunday school is in church parsonage; children from preschool-sixth grade welcome. Childcare services are available during worship. Call (847) 823-6984.

St. John Brebeuf: Adoration Chapel in the Parish Ministry Center, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for spiritual devotion, prayers and meditation. Call (847) 966-8145.

Ezra-Habonim: Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, offers Introduction to Judaism and beginning adult Hebrew classes on Sundays and monthly Yiddish. Members and nonmembers are welcome. Call (847) 675-4141, or go to www.ehnt.org.

Reunions

Proviso East High School: The Class of 1972 will hold a 40th class reunion, “Endless Summer Event,” Aug. 18 at the Drury Lane in Oak Brook. Visit www.provisoeast72.org or call Chris at (708) 848-4867.

Taft High School: The June 1961 Class will hold a 50 + 1 reunion Sept. 21 to 23. Events will be held in Chicago and Arlington Heights. Email Taftjun61alums@aol.com; write to Taft 1961 Reunion, P.O. Box 369, Park Ridge IL 60068; or call John, (312) 208-2582.

Austen High School: Class of 1952 is planning a 60-year reunion, “Let’s Celebrate,” on Oct. 6. Email gbajacobsen@comcast.net or call (847) 255-8659.

Navy and Marine Corps: Shipmates who served on the USS Columbus CA-74/CG-12 will reunite Sept. 12 to 16 at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport, Portland, Ore. Contact Allen R. Hope, 3828 Hobson Road, Fort Wayne IN 46815-6505; call (260) 486-2221 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern time; email Hope4391@frontier.com.

St. John Brebeuf: Looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail lryder@sjbschool.org, and submit their name, year graduated, address, phone number, maiden name (if applicable) and e-mail address, and may share a story or tell how St. John Brebeuf made an impact on their life.

Maine Seniors

Maine Township MaineStreamers: Offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the MaineStreamers monthly newsletter, which details activities for the upcoming month. Most activities are at Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, unless otherwise noted. Contact the MaineStreamers, (847) 297-3510, or go to www.mainetownship.com.

Maine Township: In cooperation with the Cook County Sheriff’s Office, Maine Township is collecting used cell phones to be converted for emergency 911 use for seniors. Donate phones at Maine Town Hall.

Senior Center

Niles Senior Center: The center offers membership to Niles residents age 55 and older and their spouses. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420 for an application. Visit www.vniles.com, click on Departments and then Senior. Registration required for most programs.

Amplified Phones: Try an amplified phone – free for those who qualify for this state of Illinois program. Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment on July 10.

Blood Pressure Screening: 9-11 a.m. July 11, free on a walk-in basis.

Medication and Sharps Collection: For Niles residents, from 9-11 a.m. July 11 (must be in original labeled bottles).

Cholesterol/Glucose Screening: From 9-11 a.m. July 11. This is a fasting test. Advance registration required.

AARP Driver’s Safety: From noon-4 p.m. July 10 and 17. This is an eight-hour class offered in two four-hour sessions. Both days are required to receive certification. Pre-registration is required, and payment is due the first day of class. Graduates of this AARP program may qualify for an insurance discount. Cost is $12 for members of AARP and $14 for nonmembers.

39 Steps: At the Drury Lane Theatre, from 10:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Aug. 16 – Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with
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Dear Cook County Taxpayer:

As you read this, your 2nd installment property tax bill for tax year 2011 is in the mail. You should receive it in a day or two.

Read your bill. It will show you the 12 to 20 taxing agencies which claim part of your pay, and how much each agency gets.

Here's how to read your bill. Visit cookcountytreasurer.com or cookcountypropertyinfo.com and:
- Click "View Taxing Districts Financial Statements"
- Enter your 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN)
- Click the icon beside each agency name to display its financial information

The data available through cookcountytreasurer.com or cookcountypropertyinfo.com contains the following information for 526 taxing agencies across Cook County:
- Local government budgeted revenues
- Local government outstanding debt and pension debt
- Local government 10-year levy (taxing) history
- Percentage of levy (taxing) change over 10 years
- Rate of return on investments
- Rate of salary increases

We give you this information online and on your bill because you have a right to see the numbers that make up what you pay. Our latest calculations show the governments of Cook County owe at least $140 billion for pensions and other costs, money which will come out of our payments and our future.

A note: 24 agencies have not fully reported their data, as required by the Debt Disclosure Ordinance which was passed by the Cook County Board of Commissioners. We are working with these agencies to comply with the DDO before they are compelled to do so.

Meanwhile, read your bill when you receive it.

Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer
Golf Mill Shopping Center: 
Hosting “Feats of Fitness,” a mall-walking program Mondays through Saturdays, to enable seniors to walk within a secure, enclosed environment. The program is sponsored by Bethany Terrace, Golf Mill Shopping Center, Maine Towne, Super Seniors: Jewish Seniors of Robineau, contact Dorothy Levant at (847) 675-8580. Super Seniors: Jewish Senior3 group for people older than 60, meets 3-4:30 p.m. the first and third Saturdays at the North Shore University Health System Skokie Hospital, 9600 Gross Point Road, Skokie. Topics include current events, healthy living, and more! For an application and tour of Robineau, contact Dorothy Levant at (847) 675-8580.

Support 
Diabetes support groups: “Advocate Medical Group offers support meetings in the Skokie Pavilion, 1775 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Adult Type 1 support meetings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.; July 18 (Skin Care Tips for Sun Safety) and Aug. 15 (Diabetes Bingo), Adult Type 2 meets from 6:30 p.m. July 16 (Skin Care Tips), Aug. 23 (Diabetes Bingo). To register for any class, call (847) 318-2500.

National Alliance on Mental Illness: Cook County North Suburban Chapter, offers the Family-to-Family Education Program from 7-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays, up to Aug. 28 at the Kenton Knox Center, 9701 N. Knox, Skokie. The course is free. To register, call (847) 716-2252.

Weight No More: Friendly weight loss support group welcomes new members. Discussions include weight loss tips, recipes, and helpful ideas to help participants reach their goals. Fees are $5 monthly to defray the room rental costs and small fines for weight gain. Meetings take place from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Fridays at the Howard Leisures Center, 6676 Howard St., Niles (elevator accessible). Call (847) 679-4229.

Lutheran General Hospital: Stroke Club for stroke survivors and their caregivers meets from 3-4 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month (except January and July) at the Outpatient Therapy Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines; use south entrance. Contact Meg Potterfield, (847) 723-4765.

Catholic Charities: Archdiocese of Chicago invites those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide to participate in its Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) meetings at its Northwest office, 1717 Rand Road, Des Plaines. The minimum age for the monthly meetings or eight-session groups is 18 years old. If possible, call the LOSS office, (312) 655-7283, for an initial intake before the first meeting or visit www.catholiccharities.net/LOSS. Groups meet 7-9 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month and also on the second Wednesday of each month.

CJE SeniorLife: Accepting applications for its Robineau Residence, 7550 N. Kostner Ave., in Skokie. Robineau offers a residential community composed of 24 affordable units in a one-story building. In a warm, friendly setting, designed to serve seniors, 62-years and older, who may need a helping hand. Staff is available on-site, 24 hours a day, in case of emergency. Additional supportive services are available through CJE. Applicants should qualify for subsidized housing under the provisions of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Section 8 program. An additional monthly service fee is required. For an application and tour of Robineau, contact Dorothy Levant at (847) 675-8580.

Additional supportive services for weight gain. Meetings are available through CJE. Applicants should qualify for subsidized housing under the provisions of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Section 8 program. An additional monthly service fee is required. For an application and tour of Robineau, contact Dorothy Levant at (847) 675-8580.

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O’Neill gets picked for elite U.S. training team

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Contributor

As Kelsey O’Neill prepared to try out for the U.S. Girls Youth National Volleyball Training Team earlier this year, she was constantly reminded to manage her expectations.

The elite squad is a select group of 24 girls who train at the U.S. Olympic Training Facility in Colorado Springs, Colo., in a bid to be one of 12 named to the U.S. Youth National team.

O’Neill was making her first attempt at being picked, and kept on hearing warnings she wouldn’t be asked to join the country’s top youth volleyball players. To make matters worse, O’Neill was trying out as a middle blocker, a position she hadn’t played since the beginning of her club volleyball season.

Although the odds seemed stacked against her, O’Neill persevered.

“I know a lot of people were telling me, ‘You won’t make it the first time, don’t be upset,’” said O’Neill, a junior who will play in her first varsity season at Loyola this fall.

“But I did and that was really exciting for me... I was a little shocked at first because I knew how many different places were holding tryouts. I saw my number online, signing O’Neill made the team) and at first I didn’t believe it, but then it was overwhelming. It was so cool.”

After the initial shock and elation wore off, O’Neill and Taylor Tashima, teammates on Wildcat Juniors 16 Black, traveled to Colorado Springs on June 27, began during her high school season.

Louis averaged 8.5 kills for Niles North and earned all- CSL North honors. Soon after the 6-foot-2 outside hitter saw her prep season end with a loss to New Trier, she began a tricky juggling act of balancing her schoolwork with high school basketball and club volleyball.

While Louis showed promise as a sophomore on the Vikings’ varsity basketball team, her performance during this club volleyball season — and the subsequent recruiting interest — drove her to make a difficult decision.

“I need to focus on volleyball,” said Louis, who decided at the beginning of the summer to give up basketball. “It was very difficult because of the atmosphere with the teammates and everything. It’s just hard leaving the team. I don’t like to quit anything either.”

Although she’s focusing on her game in volleyball, Louis figures to see her time continue to stretch this fall because Sept. 1 is the first day college coaches can directly contact junior volleyball players.

Two of Louis’ Wildcat Juniors 16 Black teammates — New Trier juniors Taylor Tashima (Northwestern) and Haley Fauntleroy (Virginia) — have already committed to high-end Division I programs. Louis’ recruiting process started later than both those players, due to her limited playing time in her first season of club, but the Niles North outside hitter has drawn significant recruiting interest this year.

Louis visited the University of Florida before the beginning of AAU National Championships in Orlando, and she plans on returning to Gainesville to attend the Gators’ volleyball camp later this summer.

Louis is attracting interest from many schools — including Texas, Michigan and USC — and she’s working with her mom and the coaches at Wildcat Juniors to sort out the recruiting onslaught.

Kelsey O’Neill, who lives in Skokie and is an incoming junior at Loyola, was one of 24 girls named to the U. S. Girls Youth National Volleyball Training Team. PHOTO COURTESY OF LUCILLE O’NEILL

Niles North’s Taylor Louis (20) will skip her junior season of basketball to continue improving her game in volleyball. | STACIA TIMONERE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Louis putting her focus on volleyball

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Contributor

SKOKIE — Niles North junior Taylor Louis barely saw the court as a member of Wildcat Juniors’ 16 Black team.

By her own admission, Louis’ skill set had some holes last year. She lacked the all-around ability — especially defense, blocking and kill accuracy — required to regularly stay in the rotation and play well against some of the Midwest’s best club volleyball teams.

One year later and with Wildcat Juniors 16 Black’s season wrapped up, Louis is a new, much-improved player. Each facet of her game has progressed, but especially her defense.

“Juniors (the national AAU national youth volleyball tournament) is great. They really teach you the techniques. I couldn’t really pass at all when I first got to Wildcat Juniors, and now I’m able to pass the ball. Their coaching technique is just amazing. For me to be passing just a little under a year is just great.”

The improvement the Skokie teen showed as a member of 16 Black, whose season concluded with 29th place at the AAU National Championships on June 27, began during her high school season.

Louis averaged 8.5 kills for Niles North and earned all-CSL North honors. Soon after the 6-foot-2 outside hitter saw her prep season end with a loss to New Trier, she began a tricky juggling act of balancing her schoolwork with high school basketball and club volleyball.

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Yamat aces Jr. Am test at Makray Memorial

BY MATT HARNES
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

BARRINGTON — Nick Hardy was mostly smiles after his final round at the Illinois State Junior Amateur last week.

Considering his descent from the pole position following the first round to third place, that's impressive.

But the junior-to-be at Glenbrook North is a hardened tournament veteran by now and understands the golf course punches back and mostly wins.

Hardy carded 68-73-78 at Makray Memorial in Barrington. His birdie on the par-5 18th gave him third place alone, one stroke better than Lake Forest's Ian Mankoff.

Hardy slid down the leaderboard in the third round after posting two bogeys and a double bogey over the first four holes. But he rallied to shoot par on the back to finish at 6-over for the tournament, nine strokes off Raymond Knoll's winning score.

"I wasn't nervous," Hardy said. "The only nerves I get is when I put pressure on myself. It was one of those days when I hit some bad shots early. If I played my game, I could have won."

"But I stuck my head up and kept playing hard. Not a lot of people would have done that on a hot day.""Malone East's Orion Yamat, who will be a sophomore in the fall, recorded a hole-in-one during last week's Illinois State Junior Amateur at Makray. [GARY MIDDENDORF- FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

"I just wanted to go out there and put up a good number and see what happens," said Yamat, one of the first players to finish Thursday. "I played smart out there and didn't blow up on any holes."

Yamat's ace was the third of his playing career, but his first in several years.

"I just wanted to go out there and put up a good number and see what happens," said Yamat, one of the first players to finish Thursday. "But I knew what happened because of the reactions."

Recent Glenbrook South graduate Quinn Pritchard, who will play at Princeton, made a move up the leaderboard on the final day by shooting an even-par 71 to tie for fifth (75-76-71).

One of Loyola's top players, Michael Abrahamson, continues to improve. The junior tied for 15th (74-77-81) at the State Junior Amateur, but he knows he could have done better, despite holing out for eagle on the first hole of the tournament.

"My putting got progressively worse, and so my score got progressively worse," said Abrahamson, who lives on Chicago's northwest side. "I have figured out all the parts of my game except for that. Once I do, I will shoot better scores."

Abrahamson was one of two Ramblers from last year's postseason lineup to make the cut at Makray Memorial. Michael Hultquist, a senior, tied for 42nd (78-80-84).

"The ultimate goal is for us to do well at the state tournament," said Abrahamson, who tied for 21st as a sophomore. "I want to make it back as an individual and help our team win it."
Niles West’s Kevin Ross: Player of the Year

BY MATT HARNESS

Kevin Ross is a wanted man these days. Ever since exploding onto the national radar last summer during the Area Code Games, the Niles West graduate can’t seem to do anything wrong.

Now fully recovered from a thumb injury just prior to the playoffs, Ross is in the Atlanta area for the next several days for the Perfect Game tournament with the Chi-town Cream.

Off the field, a big decision hangs over his head.

The shortstop has until July 15 to decide between playing at the University of Michigan or signing a professional contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates, who drafted him in the eighth round last month.

“Still don’t know,” he said last week.

Ross did offer some insight into what ultimately is driving his decision.

“Money,” he said. “If I get the money that I want, I will be playing for (the Pirates) for sure.”

He’s being advised by Jeff Borris of the Beverly Hills Sports Council in California, and Ross is using his full scholarship at Michigan as leverage in negotiations.

“It’s been hard, but I want to make the right decision,” Ross said.

Ross did everything right during his senior season with the Wolves. He batted .427 and had an on-base percentage of .528. He hit 16 doubles, drove in 20 runs and scored 32. He also stole 30 bases.

One area Ross is looking to improve this offseason is his defensive range.

“That’s a big thing,” he said. “I’ve been doing a lot of work on the field and also some drills off it.”

Once it returns from Atlanta, the Cream will compete in other amateur tournaments this summer.

The question remains: Will Ross?

The Pioneer Press All-Area teams are selected by our reporting staffs, in consultation with area coaches and other experts.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

IF: Kevin Ross, Niles West Sr.

FIRST TEAM

IF: Kyle Colletta, Niles West Jr.

P: Nick Hedge, New Trier Sr.

IF: Zach Jones, Glenbrook South Sr.

OF: Josh Perlmutter, New Trier Sr.

P: Peter Resnick, Glenbrook North Sr.

OF: Kyle Richardson, Maine South Sr.

IF: Rocky Saavedra, Maine S. Sr.

OF: Jason Scholl, Glenbrook North Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Jordan Crawford, Evanston senior

Cory Evans, Maine East senior

John Forsythe, Maine South senior

Jimmy Frankos, Maine South senior

Chris Hall, New Trier senior

Sam Koloms, Glenbrook South senior

Danny Rafferty, Loyola junior

Logan Spurlin, Loyola senior

TJ Tedeschi, Glenbrook North junior

Sean Visconti, New Trier senior

Austin Zimmerman, New Trier senior

SPECIAL MENTION

Patrick Aloisio, Maine South Sr.

Dan Ammer, Niles North Jr.

Jack Anderson, Evanston Sr.

Chad Bruce, Glenbrook North Sr.

Josiah Carlson, Glenbrook South Sr.

Christian Carr, New Trier Sr.

James Fuller, Niles North Sr.

Tyler Glowacki, Maine East Sr.

Keenan Kelly, Maine South Sr.

Brad Margolin, Glenbrook North Jr.

Jason Meger, Niles West Sr.

Phil Papandonov, Maine East Jr.

Kyle Pauly, Glenbrook South Jr.

Michael Virgilio, Maine South Jr.
Dons wrestling, track to change classes

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

Niiles — A year after the Illinois High School Association reclassified several Notre Dame sports teams, only two Dons sports are scheduled to change classes during the 2012-13 school year.

In mid-June, the IHSA posted its list of enrollments and classifications for the upcoming year. According to the information on the association’s website, the Dons wrestling team will climb to Class 3A, where the largest schools compete, after competing last year in the 2A tournament.

Conversely, Notre Dame's track team will drop down to 2A from 3A.

Notre Dame athletic director Michael Hennessey maintained all last year that Notre Dame accepts any IHSA changes, and the school never asked to be grouped with smaller schools in the postseason.

"We'll say it again: It really doesn't matter," he said. "(The IHSA) is going to dictate certain things and there is not a whole heck of a lot we can do but abide by it."

In 2011, the IHSA revised its private-school multiplier system, deciding that some private schools would be classified not simply by enrollment figures, but by their successes or failure on the field. This waiver was designed to give programs a better chance of winning postseason championships.

Hennessey said his understanding is that classifications this year are based strictly on enrollment. For 2012-13 school year, Notre Dame is listed at 1,604.

In previous years, Notre Dame had been grouped almost exclusively among the larger schools. The IHSA "multiplied" the enrollment of the all-male private school to provide a better reflection of how it compared to co-ed public schools.

Last year, several Notre Dame teams dropped in class, due to lower enrollment and lack of success — winning regional titles or first-round football playoff games — during the previous five years.

The baseball went from 4A to 3A and soccer, wrestling and cross country were placed in 2A. Oddly enough, the Dons wrestling team was coming off a Class 3A regional title. Notre Dame went on to capture a Class 2A wrestling regional title this winter. Additionally, eight wrestlers advanced to the Class 2A state meet.

Head wrestling coach Augie Genovesi said the Dons might have registered comparable success in 3A.

"I think five of those eight would have gone down (in 3A), possibly all eight," Genovesi said.

The coach said he's happy to move back to 3A, but said there are plenty of tough matches in Class 2A post-season.

"You want to compete at the highest level," he said. "When kids are wrestling for a state championship, whether it's 2A or 3A, the kids are just as good. It would have been a pretty good dual meet to see the 2A champ face the 3A champ. It would be very competitive. Class 2A is competitive, it's just not as deep."

Wrestling and basketball are the two sports at the school that don't qualify for a waiver and will play in the biggest class. Track was in that category last season, but now joins cross country in Class 2A.

Notre Dame baseball coach Nelson Gord said the switch in policy makes sense, because talent ebbs and flows and it's difficult to group teams based on wins.

"In high school, it's hard to predict the future of one program because every year the talent pool shifts," he said. "You may have a strong group one year, (the program) gets bumped up, and then the group behind them is not so strong."

Hennessey, meanwhile, said he would like to see teams placed in a class, and remain there.

"It should be something that's steady, not something that fluctuates," he said. "You should just be in a certain area (class), unless there is a devastating growth or decrease in enrollment."

Hennessey's football team plays in the East Suburban Catholic, one of the state's most demanding conferences. Just reaching the state playoffs, which Notre Dame has done for six straight seasons, is a significant achievement. The coach said the schedule prepares his team to face any playoff opposition.

"If we're 6A, or they move us again (in the future) and we're fortunate enough to get in (the playoffs), we'll play whomever they put us against," he said.

Colton Kelly wrestles at 195 pounds, during a match with Maine South's Mike White. The Notre Dame wrestling program is moving up to Class 3A this season after competing in Class 2A last season. [VINCENT D. JOHNSON-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA]
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Brynn Wiegman
Store: Romeoville
Position: General Manager
Time in the community: 17 years
Pet parent of a bird, corn snake and two Sharpeis—Mr. Hippo & Snuffy—Brynn, as a leukemia survivor, is a huge supporter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Noel Santiago
Store: Algonquin
Position: Dog Trainer
Time in the community: 23 years
Father of a seven-year-old son and three dogs, Noel volunteers with several animal welfare groups and wants pet parents to know training isn’t just for puppies. It’s for the lifetime of your dog.

Kristen Jurawicz
Store: Bloomington
Position: Dog Trainer
Time in the community: 15 years
Kristen volunteers with PACT Humane Society and is proud parent of Fiona Mae, a Boxer mix and Isabella, a Pibull. Her pet advice? “Stay patient and consistent”

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